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*Anna B. Howell*  
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W<sup>h</sup>L<sup>l</sup>  
SPECIAL AND CORRECT

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RUCK  
STORY OF THE WAR  
BETWEEN THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
AND  
GREAT BRITAIN;

COMPRISING  
A PARTICULAR DETAIL OF THE  
NAVAL AND MILITARY OPERATIONS,  
AND A FAITHFUL RECORD OF THE EVENTS PRO-  
DUCED DURING THE CONTEST.

From its Commencement, June 18, 1812, to the  
Treaty of Peace, ratified at the City of  
Washington, February 17, 1815.

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By J. B. Howell  
Third Edition, revised and corrected.

CAREFULLY COMPILED FROM OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JOHN LOW,  
AT SHAKESPEAR'S HEAD,  
NO. 17 CHATHAM-STREET.

.....  
1816.  
A

*District of New-York, ss.*

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the twenty-third day of February, in the fortieth year of the Independence of the United L. S. States of America, JOHN LOW, of the said district, hath deposited in this office the title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Proprietor, in the words following, to wit:

"An Impartial and Correct History of the War between the United States of America, and Great Britain, comprising a particular detail of the Naval and Military operations, and a faithful record of the events produced during the contest. From its Commencement, June 18, 1812, to the Treaty of Peace, ratified at the City of Washington, February 17, 1815. Third edition, revised and corrected. Carefully compiled from official documents."

In conformity to the act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, "An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the time therein mentioned. And also to an act, entitled "An act supplementary to an act, entitled an Act for the encouragement of learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts, and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned, and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of designing, engraving and etching historical and other prints."

THERON RUDD,

*Clerk of the Southern District of New-York.*



12. 3. 10. 2  
Rec'd Rev. 3 Apr. 184

## PREFACE.

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NO era, in the moral world, has excited the public curiosity, or effected the general interest of mankind, more than the discovery of a western continent, in the year 1492. Attracted as the public mind was by that event, yet its resulting importance was not then fully anticipated by the most extravagant hopes, or the most acute prognostics. To convert the natural riches of the new world to the advantage of the old, was the only object which the kings of Europe wished to accomplish, or intended to essay. Neither king nor subject expected that the western world would become the seat of empires, independent of European rulers; much less did they expect, that the future monarchs of the east would meet in the new world, rivals capable of opposing and defeating attempts at continuing in political subjection, the descendants of emigrants, led to the new continent by cupidity, driven to it by persecution, or banished as an expiation of their crimes.

It was not until long after the first settlement of America by Europeans, that it was sagaciously observed, that "the new world seemed destined to give laws to the old." The observation drew forth but the derision or contempt of the hearers and readers. A prophecy so improbable, and which could not, it was supposed, be accom-

plished, if at all, in a hundred centuries, was deemed too peurile to be credited, and too distant to be dreaded.

The Revolutionary war gave the first substantial proof that materials for all the purposes of self government existed in America. In proportion as the genius and resources of the inhabitants were developed. in the same degree did they find advocates in different parts of the world, who either saw with pleasure the successful prospect which opened itself to the people of the United States, (late British colonies,) secretly encouraged and relieved them, or openly supported and assisted them. The happy termination of this contest, led to the belief, that the theories of political prophets were not only probable, but their consummation less distant than had been hitherto supposed.

The United States, having by the treaty of peace of 1783, become a nation by the consent of all other nations, had as if to begin the world, without any other capital than the virtue of the citizens, and without security against foreign aggression, except what could be drawn from their own courage and patriotism.

As yet their population was little more than three millions of inhabitants; the want of a well consolidated confederation, rendered the government weak; and the many incidents and difficulties attending the attempt to reconcile various interests with a general principle, increased this difficulty. The speculations as to the future des-

tinies of the people were various. England had concluded peace *pro forma*, but she continued hostile in fact. Great Britain was but a small island, yet her sovereign was a king over extensive regions, and many islands in various parts of the globe: the example of several of her colonies rejecting her authority, and uniting in support of each other, was dangerous to the parent country; it was found impossible to subdue them by force, it was determined to do so by intrigue, corruption, and robbery.

The colonies remedied one great inconvenience by forming a general constitution in 1789, which stands an unrivalled instance of patriotism, wisdom, and justice; a rapid growth of population, and extension of commerce, a cultivation of literature, arts and sciences, were fast advancing to a point that would outrival England in every respect.

As this state of things advanced in America, England proceeded to measures of increased violence and injustice. Seeking for pretexts, in principles novel, unknown to other nations, and even contravening her own established practice, she left to America the alternative of submission to her will, or resistance by war; the latter was resorted to.

The history of the Revolutionary war is already before the public. It is a valuable record of what men determined to be free, can do. This war brought into a phalanx that mass of military patriotism, which under the immortal WARREN, commenced its career of glory at Bunker

hill; and terminated it, under the immortal WASHINGTON, at York-town.

The task, now undertaken, must be interesting to every citizen of the United States. A record of the second struggle against the same enemy, who during seven years of revolutionary contest, carried fire and sword, the bayonet, the halter, and the tomahawk, throughout the United States, will surely be an acceptable treat.

The military talents which sprang as if into a miraculous existence during the late war; the patriotic courage which displayed itself on every occasion; their successful triumphs in almost every battle, are proud proofs, that where genius is free to act, and that influenced by an *amor patriæ*, no dangers are too difficult to overcome, no difficulties too great to be subdued.

The apparent military and naval power of England was, to that of America, at the commencement of the late war, as that of the lion to the lamb; but the incensed eagle stretched forward his beak, and, with it tore the laurel from the Briton's brow; and, flying over the waters, he wrested with his talons, the trident from the "mistress of the deep."

In giving details of these events, these imperishable monuments of American glory, a strict regard has been had to truth, uninfluenced by any unworthy consideration, and it is hoped that this small volume will be found to contain as copious a view of history as could reasonably be expected, within so circumscribed a compass.



## HISTORY OF THE WAR, &c.

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AMERICA seems to have been destined, by Providence, as the soil which should give birth, strength, and maturity to rational liberty: in this respect, its discovery must be considered of prime benefit to mankind. Columbus, a lover of justice, would have fixed the residence of liberty in South America, but this extraordinary adventurer became the object of persecuting envy, he was sacrificed at the shrine of ambition and tyranny; and, the southern peninsula, the only part of the western continent which Columbus had visited, was given up to cupidity, plunder, and the most horrific ill-treatment and massacre of its hospitable inhabitants. The fictitious riches, the gold, which it produced, invited an early and continued migration from the old to the new continent, insomuch, that the latter has already lost, in a great degree, its original uncultivated aspect; and, were the genius of its new inhabitants not restrained by the policy of its rulers, would, ere now, have advanced far towards all perfection, to which man can aspire. For more than 300 years, has South America bowed to the will of despots, and man has presented but the disgusting contrast of tyrants and slaves. A patriotic flame has lately diffused a gleam of light through the darkened atmosphere which overspread the political re-

gion of the south ; man begins, there to assume the character for which God and nature had destined him ; and philanthropy may hope, that the present generation will not pass away, until liberty will smile over every part of America, and all its inhabitants be happy.

The inordinate ambition of hereditary governments, and their just jealousy of each other, have given an unbounded spring to the desire of extended dominion and foreign conquests.— This spirit, however injurious, has, in some respects, contributed towards the increased knowledge of geography, the diffusion of general information, and the facilitating of a social intercourse between the inhabitants of distant regions.

England, famed for the adventurous spirit of its inhabitants, and the unequalled ambition of its sovereigns, could not remain an indifferent spectator of an European rival taking possession of a new world. Expeditions were soon formed for the more perfect discovery of the new continent. John Cabot, having obtained a commission from Henry the 7th of England, to discover unknown lands, and annex them to the crown, discovered the eastern coast of North America ; Sir Francis Drake, subsequently, sailed along it ; and England, by right of prior discovery, claimed its sovereignty. Gold mines are generally confined to tropical climates ; the soil of North America, contiguous to the sea, appeared to be light, sandy, or unfit for profitable cultivation ; the climate was variable and unhealthy ; the aborigines were more savage and inhospitable than those of the south. No adequate inducement presented itself to new settlers ; and, had the inhabitants of England no

necessity for quitting their native country, they never would discover a wish to transfer their residence to the then inhospitable climate of North America. A stimulus was not long wanting.

The granting of immense tracts of uncultivated wilds to individuals or companies, was not likely to induce any rapid settlement. Individuals might, for the purpose of enhancing the value of their personal fortunes, influence emigrants to settle on their new estates ; and these settlers, having changed their residence, might be compelled to abide by a choice from which it would be difficult or impossible to recede. But their reports and their fate would reach their friends ; emigration would cease or be too slow for any efficient purpose : decrease of population, by insalubrity of climate, and the inroads of Indians, would be little, if at all, overbalanced by births, and the accession of transported felons.

Man, in all stages, is a lover of liberty, reason dictates that he has rights ; but this reason obscured by artificial ignorance and enervated by habitual bondage, becomes incapable of action, and insensible to the true extent of his misery. The slave feels pain, without knowing whence it originates, or how it should be remedied. This observation is strictly applicable only to corporeal slavery. The slavery, exercised over the conscience, is that, in support of which no sophistry can prevail ; and, to which, no term, no length of endurance, can reconcile the sufferer. No prescription can justify the practice of enslavement in any case ; and no slave, however abject will admit it in cases affecting his conscience. God has instilled, into

the heart of man, certain religious duties; and, whenever the fulfilment of these is forbidden by human edicts, the injured person fears not to revolt or seek an asylum against persecution. With God on his side, he fears no other power, and can be happy in a wilderness or in a cave.

It is not now necessary to enter into a detailed view of the persecutions against Christians in Europe. Who that has not heard of them? It is sufficient to observe, that no difficulties, real or imaginary, could deter the persecuted Christians from seeking an asylum, where, free from interruption, they might adore their God, as conscience dictated. America offered that asylum; and to this circumstance it is due, that the wilderness is so fast giving way to cultivation, the internal resources of the country have been explored and rendered operative, the seeming insurmountable objects of the new country have disappeared, and a state of comfort equal to that of any part of Europe has been produced.

This comfort was wickedly marred by the British government, while it ruled the North American colonies. A desire to proceed to the chief object of this work, and its limits precluding any particular recital of these evils, leaves only room to remark, that they were such as to create much unhappiness in the colonies. to produce complaints, remonstrances, and petitions to the mother country; and finally, were carried to such excess, as to be no longer sufferable.

On the ever to be remembered 4th July, 1776, the people of these colonies, by their representatives in congress assembled, having published a moderate, but firm, a grievous, but true state-



ment of the multiplied injuries, inflicted on them, by the British king and government, declared that the united colonies "are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states." These United colonies consisted of the states of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia; leaving England in possession of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, New-Brunswick, and Nova-Scotia.

The contest, which succeeded, was looked on by the world, with astonishment: its novelty and its importance excited general interest. A few people, without an army, without arms, without discipline, or munitions of war, without money, without allies, opposing their unorganized force against a nation rich and powerful, with numerous ships, armies, and navies, having discipline, money, credit, and all the means of warfare, and being in possession of the colonies, the inhabitants of which declared themselves absolved from all allegiance to the crown of Great Britain, was a crisis of uncommon moment. The contest was long and severe; a blood-thirsty vengeance on one side, led the British to the most shameful excesses; a determination to live free or die, guided the people of America, under the direction of the great WASHINGTON, and the other sages and patriots in the field and the cabinet, to a completion of all they wanted, all they wished. Tyranny looked down, liberty rejoiced, on the completion of the happy triumph.

The wound inflicted on the pride and interest of England, by this disruption of her empire, was truly great, but still greater than was then

contemplated. Under the dominion of England, the increase of population would be slow, the increase of commerce and manufactures still slower: the country would be a warehouse for British manufactures, the inhabitants, a nursery for British armies and navies. It was necessary that a people should be free; that genius should be unchecked, industry unrestrained, in order to prove, how far free men were superior to whatever theory could conceive of them. The experiment has been successfully tried in the United States.

The country of a monarch would not in a century recover from injury such as had been suffered by the United States. But the people of America felt all their toils and losses compensated by the acquisition of freedom; they stood erect, and, as if by magic, appeared in all the might of a nation. In less than thirty years, their country shook off the appearance of a howling wilderness. their population increased three-fold, their manufactures increased so as to supply nearly all their wants, and every sea witnessed their immensely increased external trade; in short, they became the rivals of England.

A long course of wars, and the revolutionary war of America, more than any other, increased the national debt of Great Britain to a great and burthensome amount. To meet this exigency, as well as to gratify the national wish, and to provide for the further and growing charges in support of foreign colonies, an increased trade was necessary. The industry of Englishmen showed itself in the successful and unparalleled extension of her manufactures, and the policy of her rulers aimed at an undivided foreign commerce, in support of the home system.

The naval successes of Britain, during the French war, had nearly accomplished her vast design. The ships of Holland, France, Portugal, Spain, and Italy, had nearly disappeared from the ocean; those of Russia, and the other naval powers of the north of Europe, had been gained over to the British interest, or destroyed by the superiority of her fleets. The United States, although in a state of infancy was yet the only nation that had virtue or courage sufficient to move in a just course, uninfluenced by intrigue, and unintimidated by menace. Towards this nation, Britain for years manifested the most ungenerous, injurious and cowardly conduct; amounting, in its effects, to war, while the United States pursuing an honorable and pacific course, was debarred from making reprisal. This *one sided* war, had it been permitted to continue, would have sunk the States in the esteem of foreign nations, dried up the sources of their growing greatness, reduced them to a state of contemptible imbecility, and, not improbably, to a merited state of dependance—they might again become colonies—British colonies.

Hitherto the Americans looked but little to home manufactures, the capital of the merchant was employed on the ocean, and the people of the interior found sufficient employment in tilling the soil. There was a great and profitable demand for every kind of produce, and the citizens were in the habit of receiving manufactures of all kinds from foreign nations, and particularly from England.

Had England been satisfied to contend for commercial superiority by fair means, she would long, very long, continue to supply the United States with almost every kind of manu-

follow, and thus each belligerent proceed to repeal their respective edicts, *pari passu*, according to their respective dates, until all the offensive decrees should be annulled.

When, however, the French decrees had been annulled, the British, under the most equivocating, flimsy, and false pretexts, continued to act on their Orders in Council; until after the declaration of war by America. It is true that the British government could not be acquainted with the declaration of war at the time of the repeal of the Orders in Council, it must, however, be conceded, that they were acquainted with the American embargo, which was generally understood to be preparatory to war; nor could they doubt that war would be declared, unless they believed that America had lost all political virtue. A state of war superseded all use which the British could make of the Orders in Council. Their repeal was marked by the greatest contempt for, and insult to the United States.

Mr. Calhoun, from the committee of foreign relations, to whom the President's message was referred, by the house of Representatives, made a long and luminous report of the 3d June, 1812, which concluded by recommending AN APPEAL TO ARMS.

The report was, after two ineffectual motions to have the doors opened, ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Calhoun, from the same committee, on leave given, presented a bill, declaring war between Great Britain and her dependencies, and the United States, and their territories. This bill was warmly opposed and debated for two days; when the question being taken, shall the said bill pass? It was resolved in the affirmative.



The Yeas and Nays were as follows :

### YEAS.

*New-Hampshire.* Dinsmoor, Hall, and Harper.—3.  
*Massachusetts.* Seaver, Carr, Green, Richardson, Turner, and Widgery.—6.

*Rhode-Island.* None.

*Vermont.* Fisk, Shaw, and Strong.—3.

*Connecticut.* None.

*New York.* Pond, Avery, and Sage.—3.

*New-Jersey.* Condit, and Morgan.—2.

*Pennsylvania.* Seybert, Anderson, Brown, Roberts, Findley, Smilie, Lyle, Whitehill, Bard, Davis, Lefever, Hyneman, Piper, Lacock, Crawford, and Smith.—16.

*Delaware.* None.

*Maryland.* Kent, Little, M'Kim, Ringgold, Brown, and Archer.—6.

*Virginia.* Nelson, Gholsen, Goodwyn, Newton, Taliaferro, Dawson, Basset, Smith, Hawes, Roane, M'Koy, Pleasants, Clopton, and Burwell.—14.

*North-Carolina.* Alston, Blackledge, Macon, King, Cochran, and Pickens.—6.

*South-Carolina.* Williams, Cheves, Lowndes, Butler, Calhoun, Earle, Winn, and Moore.—8.

*Georgia.* Troup, Bibb, and Hall.—3.

*Kentucky.* Johnson, Desha, New, M'Kee, and Ormsby.—5.

*Tennessee.* Rhea, Grundy, and Sevier.—3.

*Ohio.* Morrow.—1.

### NAYS.

*New-Hampshire.* Bartlett, and Sullivan.—2.

*Massachusetts.* Quincy, Reed, Taggart, Ely, Brigham, White, Tallman, and Wheaton.—8.

*Rhode-Island.* Potter and Jackson.—2.

*Vermont.* Chittenden.—1.

*Connecticut.* Sturges, Davenport, Mosely, Champion, Tallmadge, Pitkin, and Law.—7.

*New-York.* Bleecker, Emot, Cooke, Fitch, Gold,



Sammons. Stow, Tracy, Van Cortlandt, Mitchill, and Matcalf.—11.

*New-Jersey.* Boyd, Hufty, Maxwell, and Newbold.—4.

*Pennsylvania.* Milnor, and Rodman.—2.

*Delaware.* Ridgely.—1.

*Maryland.* Key, Goldsborough, and Stewart.—3.

*Virginia.* Randolph, Lewis, Baker, Breckenridge, and Wilson.—5.

*North-Carolina.* Pearson, M'Bryde, and Stanford.—3.

*South-Carolina.* None.

*Georgia.* None.

*Kentucky.* None.

*Tennessee.* None.

*Ohio.* None.

Yeas 79

Nays 49

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Majority for War 30

On the 5th of June, a confidential message was received by the Senate, from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Macon and Mr. Findley, two of their members—Mr. Macon, chairman:

“ Mr. President—The House of Representatives have passed a bill, entitled, ‘ An act declaring war between Great-Britain and her dependencies and the United States and their territories; in which they ask the concurrence of the Senate; and request that the bill be considered confidentially.’ And they withdrew.

The bill, from the House of Representatives, was before the Senate, from day to day, until the 17th June. It underwent a very enlarged discussion, met with much and violent opposition, but finally passed that body on the latter

day ; there appearing for its passage, 19 ; against it, 13.

The act was passed into a law on the 18th, in the following words :

### AN ACT

*Declaring War between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America, and their territories.*

*BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That WAR be, and the same is hereby declared to exist between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America, and their territories ; and that the President of the United States be, and he is hereby authorised to use the whole land and naval force of the United States, to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the United States, commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal, in such form as he shall think proper, and under the seal of the United States, against the vessels, goods, and effects of the government of the same United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the subjects thereof.*

*June 18, 1812.*

APPROVED,

JAMES MADISON.

On the following day (19th June) war was declared, by proclamation, the injunction of secrecy being previously removed in both houses of Congress.

A peace of nearly 30 years, during which the Americans attended but little to improvements in the arts of war, rendered them apparently a very unequal match for a nation whose armies and navies were more numerous than they had been at any former period. The best friends of

America feared much for the fate of the little American navy. It was also supposed that our undisciplined armies must experience several defeats from the well trained regulars of England; but those, who knew any thing of the revolutionary war, felt no doubt as to what would be the event of the present. The wonderful exploits, and happy issue, that remains to be recorded, will show, that even the warmest enthusiasts did not probably anticipate renown and glory, such as was in store for Americans.

The public prints, on both sides, were warm in their denunciations of their respective opponents, and threats of what would and could be performed. The following are given as specimens.

*From the London Courier.*

“America knows not that the vigour of the British empire increases with the necessity of exerting it—that our elasticity rises with the pressure upon us—that difficulties only make us more firm and undaunted—that dangers only give us the additional means of overcoming them. It is in such a state of affairs, in such a great crisis, that a nation like Great Britain becomes greater. We are now the only bulwark of liberty in the world—placed, a little spot, a speck almost on the ocean, between the old and the new world, we are contending with both; with one arm we are beating the armies of the master of the Continent of Europe, and with the other we shall smite his Prefect on the Continent of America.”

*From the New-York Morning Post.*

“With a stone and a sling only, America commenced the war of Independence. Without arms, without clothing, without money, and without credit, we took the field; relying upon stout hearts, and the assistance of God for the success of a righteous

cause. The event has proved, that with such reliances, a nation has nothing to fear. Our country has again thrown itself upon the protection of the Lord of Hosts; we need but prove faithful to him and to ourselves. Victory will again crown our efforts, and peace and plenty reward us for our toils. Who, that is truly an American, will despair of the success of his country; who will dare to believe we can be otherwise than CONQUERORS? We had imagined this impossible, except with the agents of the enemy; yet in a crisis so important, not only to us, but to posterity, we have found that the spirit of treason has dared to stalk abroad, even at noonday, amongst us. Is the enemy so strong in the camp—so confident of support, as to hazard a fearless defiance? We are, it is true, proud to exist in a land of freedom—but when men threaten us with giving the assistance of their pens to the cause of our adversaries, who will hesitate to say that such freedom becomes traitorous?"

The state of the regular army was, at this time, such as scarcely to deserve the name.—The militia, with the exception of a few uniform companies in the cities, consisted of a yeomanry and others accustomed to parade for a few hours each year, some with bad arms, others without any. The preparations for war on the land, was confined to an expedition under the command of General Hull, of which notice will be taken in the proper place. The navy consisted of the following vessels.

*List of American Vessels, and their force.*

President,	44	Com. Rodgers.
Constitution,	44	Captain Hull.
United States,	44	Decatur.
Chesapeake,	36	Ordinary.
New-York,	36	Do.

Constellation,	36	Ordinary.
Congress,	36	Capt. Smith.
Boston,	32	Ordinary.
Essex,	32	Capt. Porter.
Adams,	32	Ordinary.

## CORVETTE.

John Adams,	26	Capt. Ludlow.
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## SHIPS OF WAR.

Wasp,	16	Capt. Jones.
Hornet,	16	Lawrence.

## BRIGS.

Oneida,	16	Com. Woolsey.
Siren,	16	Lieut. Carroll.
Argus,	16	Crane.

## SCHOONERS.

Vixen,	12	Lieut. Gasden.
Nautilus,	12	Sinclair.
Enterprise,	12	Blakely.
Viper,	12	Bainbridge.
170 Gun Boats,		Capt. Shaw.

## BOMBS.

Vengeance,	}	Ordinary.
Spitfire,		
Ætna,		
Vesuvius,		

Commodore Rodgers, being at New-York, on receiving the President's proclamation, announcing war, addressed his men on the occasion, offering their wages and a discharge to such as were unwilling to risk their lives with him. A general huzza preceded the declaration of every individual to "stand or fall with the Commodore." The anchor was heaved, and, before night, the Commodore passed the light-house of Sandy Hook, and proceeded to sea, having, under his command, the frigates President, United



States, and Congress, and the sloops of war Hornet and Argus. The Commodore returned to Boston after a cruise of 72 days, during which he passed within one day's sail of the British channel, passed near the island of Madeira, and the Azores, and returned by the banks of Newfoundland and Cape-Sable. He made 7 captures and 1 re-capture; and chased two British frigates, one of them the Belvidera. This cruise was of great benefit, as it compelled the enemy to concentrate his force, by which a vast quantity of property was saved from falling into the enemy's hands.

The President, while chasing the Belvidera, received a considerable number of shot in her sails and rigging, but was not materially injured. One of the President's guns bursted, by which 3 men were killed, and nineteen wounded. By this accident, the Commodore's leg was fractured. The chase lasted from 6, A. M. on the 23d June, until midnight.

On the day after the Commodore sailed, the following appeared in the New-York Columbian, and accounts for the escape of his Britannic Majesty's vessels of war, Belvidera and Tartarus, which had been for some days off Sandy-Hook.

"It is undoubtedly a fact, that dispatch-boats with information have been sent off to the British vessels which were cruising off the harbour, since the declaration of war. *By whom* they were sent off, it is not necessary at present to mention. But this much may, and ought to be said—that if it was done by an American citizen, he has committed *treason* by the laws of the United States, and deserves, and may receive a hanging for it. There is no suspicion, however, entertained, that such an infamous

act has been done by any American. As it has therefore been the act of the subjects of the king of England, whether they are in or out of office, the act is a violation of the hospitality which tolerates their residence in our city, and calls loudly upon the constituted authorities to put the laws immediately in force against alien enemies, and to rid the city of spies, or at least of such as disgrace their character by acting in so infamous a capacity."

It is however a lamentable fact, that the enemy had his adherents within the United States, consisting of native citizens, as well as of foreigners. The public were apprised of the infamous and cowardly means used by the British to corrupt the citizens, by the agency of hired incendiaries among whom the notorious *John Henry* was conspicuous. The first effusions of the press were watched with care, and the citizens indignant at the conduct of the British government; which rendered war not only necessary, but unavoidable, were ready to construe every opposition to government, into an act of adhesion to the enemy. The spirit of 1776 seemed to revive, and the terms "Whig" and "Tory." were again coming into use. The party, which designated itself as "Federal," was long opposed to the officers of the general government: and were in the practice of condemning, opposing, and thwarting all its measures. This party, to be consistent, also opposed the war.—There was another party opposed to war, merely because it must prove injurious to England; this was properly a British tory party, and should be distinguished from those federalists, who, notwithstanding their opposition to *men*, were yet *Americans*. The tory endeavoured to screen himself beneath the semblance of

federalism ; and the federalist, who could weakly lend the mask, should not complain, if both should be taken for tories.

There were several editors of federal politics who deserved and received the applause of their political opponents, for conduct pursued immediately subsequent to the declaration of war. The following extract from a federal paper, deserves particular notice :

*From the United States' Gazette, printed at Philadelphia.*

“ The people of this country, whatever may be their opinions of this incomprehensible war, demand, and will insist that it now be carried on with the vigour necessary to accomplish the object of all war, honour while it lasts, and real peace and security when it ends.”

A paragraph of a seemingly different complexion, appeared immediately after the declaration of war, in the “ Federal Republican,” printed at Baltimore, and edited by Mr. Wagner. It was in the following words :

“ We mean to represent in as strong colours as we are capable, that the war is unnecessary, inexpedient, and entered into from partial, personal, and as we believe, motives bearing upon their front, marks of undisguised foreign influence, which cannot be mistaken. We mean to use every means of constitutional argument, and every legal means, to render as odious and suspicious to the American people, as they deserve to be, the patrons and contrivers of this highly impolitic and destructive war, in the fullest persuasion, that we shall be supported, and ultimately applauded by nine-tenths of our countrymen, and that our silence would be treason to them.”

The citizens, in a state of high irritation, proceeded in the evening of the 22d June, to Mr.

Wagner's printing office, which was destroyed. This procedure was followed by some rioting; and the paper was removed to Georgetown, (Col.) where it continued to be printed.

On the 7th July, an order was issued from the department of state of the United States, requiring all British subjects to register their names, ages, places of residence, persons composing their families, &c. at the office of the marshal of the United States, for the district in which such subjects resided. This order was followed by others directing alien enemies, who were engaged in foreign commerce, to remove from the vicinity of the sea or tide water. The information constantly conveyed to the enemy, from the ports and harbours of the United States, was supposed to render such a measure necessary. It would be much to the honour of the citizens, if this treasonable intercourse with the enemy were confined to aliens; subsequent information, obtained at the navy department of the United States, has sufficiently proved that several profligate citizens have also held communications with, and supplied the wants of the enemy.

A cartel ship arrived in July, at Boston, from Halifax, and delivered on board the U. States' frigate Chesapeake, three seamen, formerly taken out of that frigate, by the British frigate Leopard.

It will be recollected that the Leopard attacked the Chesapeake in time of peace, while the latter was unsuspecting of an attack, and unprepared for defence. The Chesapeake was fired into, boarded, and these men taken by force from her.

Remonstrance on the part of the United



States, was made to the British government, and redress demanded for this wanton breach of the laws of nations. The British government disavowed any agency in the act; but yet promoted the commander of the *Leopard*, not to the yard arm of a ship, but to the command of a 74. The restoration of these men had been, for some time, promised by the British government; it was pleasing to see it effected so soon after the declaration of war. Whether the war had any influence in this transaction, must be matter of conjecture, in which the reader will exercise his own opinion.

This is not the only instance in which war produced a change to those Americans who were impressed and confined on board British men of war. Several of them, having declined serving against their country, were sent to prison as prisoners of war, and became entitled to be liberated by exchange. This mode of treating them, after their character as American citizens, was acknowledged, was certainly unjust; they should have been fully released, not having been taken in time of war, or in arms, they were entitled to rank as non-combatants.

On the 12th July, Mr. Foster, the late British minister, and Mr. Barclay late consul, departed, from the United States, at New-York, on board the British flag of truce *Colibri*. These gentlemen were much esteemed for their private amiable qualities.

The first British victory over the American fleet, happened on the 20th of July. On this day the United States' schooner *Nautilus*, Lieutenant Crane, fell in with a fleet of the enemy, and was captured, after a chase of eight hours. No honour was lost by the Americans on this oc-



easion; the vast disparity of force, rendered resistance as imprudent, as it would be unavailing. The brave commander's sword was returned, by the British officer, Com. Brooke, as an acknowledgment of the skill and bravery with which he endeavoured to save his ship. Lieut. Crane, and his crew, were afterwards honourably acquitted, by a court of enquiry, of all censure in the loss of the *Nautilus*.

On the 17th of this same month, the frigate *Constitution*, Captain Hull, chased a British frigate into a British fleet, and was chased in turn, on the following morning, by the enemy, consisting of a ship of the line, four frigates, a brig, and a schooner. The chase continued 60 hours. The *Constitution* arrived safe in Boston. The great address, by which Captain Hull saved his ship, drew forth the admiration of the enemy, and the applause of his countrymen.

It was the wish of the Americans, as they also endeavoured in a former war, to induce the Indians to be neutral. Humanity and civilization plead in favour of a principle which would not add savage barbarity to the other evils of war; but unfortunately, the policy of a "magnanimous" enemy was different. The Americans soon learned that the enemy had leagued himself with the ruthless savage of the wilderness; the known warfare of the tomahawk and scalping-knife was to act in concert with the modern invention of rockets; in short, all means within the power of the enemy were to be combined against the people of the United States.

The first act in which the *allied* Indians and British *signalized* themselves, was in the taking of the fort of Michilimackinac, on the 17th of July, 1812. The garrison consisting of 57 ef-

fective men, including officers, was commanded by Lieutenant Hanks, of the artillery. The first notice he received of the declaration of war, was in the form of a summons, to surrender the fort and island to his Britannic majesty's forces. The enemy, contemplating a state of war, had been for some time preparing an expedition for the attack of Michilimackinac. The place of rendezvous was St. Joseph's, a British garrison, distant from Michilimackinac, about 45 miles. So prepared were the British, that they were enabled to embark the next day, after being apprised of the declaration of war. Lieutenant Hanks having received information on the 16th, of the hostile attitude of the Indians, sent Captain Daurman, of the militia, to watch the motion of the Indians; he embarked about sun-set, and met the British forces within ten or fifteen miles of the island, by whom he was made prisoner. Every possible preparation was made by the garrison to resist an attack, if such should be attempted; but the appearance of a powerful enemy, with artillery, scaling-ladders, &c. induced Lieutenant Hanks to submit to terms of capitulation, by which the fort was surrendered to the British forces, commanded by Captain Roberts. The American garrison was made prisoners, and sent to the United States, not to serve until regularly exchanged.

The British force consisted of regular troops, 46; Canadian militia, 260; Indians, 715.—Total, 1021.

The probability of an approaching war had determined the United States' government to adopt some measures necessarily preparatory to that event.

On the 19th March, 1812. Major James R. Muir-

lany, of the infantry, was directed by the secretary of war, Dr. Eustis, to proceed to Philadelphia, and ascertain the state of forwardness in which the clothing for the new troops was. This was executed, and report made accordingly. On or about the 12th April, orders were received at New-York, to commence the recruiting service. By this time the U. S. was divided into military districts, and Major Mullany appointed to the command of the western district, (New-York.) With his noted zeal and activity, he arrived at Geneva, on the 20th April, 1812, and located there, with necessary instructions, a valuable officer, (Captain Mydert M. Dox.) In a few days, the officers assigned to this district, were supplied with funds and instructions, and martial music gave awful warning of what was likely to follow. The difficulties that ignorance and treacherous opposition excited, is no way interesting at present. Manly exertion, good judgment, and a righteous cause, surmounted every scheme of faction, and soared successfully over every species of prejudice. Citizens most noted for acrimonious sarcasms towards the measures necessarily adopted at that period, soon buried their mistaken apprehensions in the national good, and were amongst the most active in aiding the efforts of the officers of the army.

On the 26th of May, a circular order was transmitted to the following officers, having for its object the concentration of the recruits of the western district, at Canandaigua, to organize them for the field, viz.

Captain Dox. Infantry, Geneva.

Captain M'Keon, 3d Regt. Artillery, Canandaigua.

Captain David Scott, Infantry, Batavia.

Captain R. H. Morris, Infantry, Cayuga.

- 1st Lieutenant, Wm. Clarke, Infantry, Auburn.
- 1st Lieutenant, John M. O'Connor, 3d Regt. Artillery, Buffalo.
- 1st Lieutenant, Samuel Chipman, Infantry, Bath.
- 2d Lieutenant, W. Martin, Infantry, Lima.
- 2d Lieutenant, Henry Whiting, Infantry, Buffalo.
- By Order,--J. R. Mullany, Maj. Comdg.
- Signed,--J. H. Rees, Lt. 3d Artillery, Adj't.

The official news of the declaration of war, reached Major Mullany on the 27th June, 1812, one day later than the express with it to the British, passed Canandaigua, (the head-quarters of the district.) The man employed on this occasion, by the friends of England, was a citizen of Albany, well known by several real patriotic men, residing in the western country, on whom he imposed. He stated that he was conveying, express, the news of the declaration of war, to *Fort Niagara*, in consequence of which stratagem, he succeeded in obtaining every facility, that money and horses could give him; and thus did the British receive the news one day before it was known at Canandaigua, from whence may be dated the fall of Michilimackinac, and a train of other disasters on the frontiers. Having delivered the despatches at Queenstown, he returned immediately. He met General Peter B. Porter at Batavia, who questioned him on the report then general, of such an express having passed, but he very adroitly escaped, and was again interrogated on his arrival at Canandaigua, by Major Mullany, who was closely watching his return. He soon discovered him, and placed him under guard, after reading to him the 57th article of the articles of war. His deposition was taken before a master in chancery, and forwarded to Governor Tompkins, the same night, whom



it reached in *thirty hours*, distance 208 miles. The gentlemen who employed the despatch were taken prisoners, and held to bail, and evidence given the governor, that, although the despatches did communicate the vote of Congress, declaring war, still the communication was *simply mercantile*.

At this time the settlers on the Niagara frontier became much alarmed; they were daily threatened with a visit from the Indians, and their houses no longer offered them safety or protection. Several settlements had been abandoned, and nothing was heard along the frontier, in imagination at least, but the hostile yell of the relentless savage.

The following letter (not hitherto published,) was, on this occasion, directed to Major Mullany:

*Black Rock, June 28, 1812.*

SIR,

There is every reason to believe that the British meditate an attack on fort Niagara, and that it may be attempted within twenty-four hours from this time. If they once pass the river, it is impossible to say how far they may proceed.—Under these very urgent circumstances I dispatch an express, to request that you will immediately march the men under your command to our assistance. Although you may not have received orders authorizing you to comply with this request, I am persuaded the occasion will justify you, as your men can be of no possible use at Canandaigua, or any other place along the south shore of the Lake, and are undoubtedly intended, ultimately, for this place. Bring with you all the arms and ammunition in the Canandaigua arsenal.

In great haste, yours respectfully,

PETER B. PORTER, Q. M. G.

*Of the State of New-York.*

MAJOR MULLANY,  
Comm'g at Canandaigua. }



Major Mullany, in consequence of the receipt of this letter, marched with his command for the protection of the Niagara frontier.

Another evidently material precaution, was the stationing a competent force in the Michigan territory, for the protection of the inhabitants, against the incursion of the enemy, as well as for the purpose of acting offensively, if such should be deemed prudent. General Hull had been at the seat of government in the spring previous to the declaration of war, where he made arrangements for conducting a force to Detroit. He accordingly proceeded to Dayton, on the Mad river, one of the waters of the great Miami, 60 miles by land, and about 75 miles by water, from its mouth. Here Governor Meigs, of the state of Ohio, surrendered to the general the command of 1500 volunteers, who had been raised for this purpose, and were commanded by Colonels M'Arthur, Cass, and Findlay, by the election of the volunteers.

On the 27th May, General Hull pitched his tent in camp Meigs, when, the troops being formed in a hollow square, the flag of the United States was unfurled, on which occasion, a short, but animated and impressive address, was delivered by Colonel Cass.

On the 1st June, the 4th United States' regiment, commanded by Colonel Miller, joined General Hull, when he resumed his march; and reached the rapids of the Miami about the last of June, having then under his command about 2500 men.

From Dayton to Detroit, a distance of more than 150 miles, the army had to cut a road through the wilderness; the land was soft or swampy, and the labour of bringing on carriages and ar-

tillery, excessive. The Indians showed little disposition to obstruct the passage of the troops. Governor Meigs proceeded with the army as far as the Urbanna, where he held a council with some Indian chiefs, when it was agreed, that peace should be maintained between them and the United States. The General put on board a vessel, the baggage and hospital stores of the army, with an officer and 30 men, with directions to sail for Detroit. The British having been apprized of the declaration of war, captured the vessel at Fort Malden, mouth of Detroit river; and thus the army suffered a serious loss.

On the evening of the 12th July, General Hull crossed the river Detroit, which divides the United States' territory of Michigan from the British province of Upper Canada, and fixed his head quarters at the town of Sandwich, about two miles within the British province. From this place he published a proclamation, of which the following is a copy:

BY WILLIAM HULL,

*Brigadier General and Commander of the North  
Western army of the United States:*

#### A PROCLAMATION.

INHABITANTS OF CANADA,

After thirty years of peace and prosperity, the United States have been driven to arms. The injuries and aggressions, the insults and indignities of Great-Britain, have once more left them no alternative but manly resistance, or unconditional submission. The army under my command has invaded your country; the standard of the union now waves over the territory of Canada. To the peaceable unoffending inhabitants, it brings neither danger nor difficulty. I come to find enemies not to make them. I come to protect, not to injure you.

Separated by an immense ocean, and an extensive wilderness, from Great Britain, you have no participation in her councils, no interest in her conduct. You have felt her tyranny; you have seen her injustice; but I do not ask you to avenge the one, or to redress the other. The United States are sufficiently powerful to afford every security, consistent with their rights, and your expectations. I tender you the invaluable blessing of civil, political, and religious liberty, and their necessary result, individual and general prosperity; that liberty which gave decision to our councils, and energy to our conduct, in a struggle for independence, which conducted us safely and triumphantly through the stormy period of the revolution—the liberty which has raised us to an elevated rank among the nations of the world; and which afforded us a greater measure of peace and security, of wealth and improvement than ever fell to the lot of any people. In the name of my country, and the authority of government, I promise you protection to your persons, property, and rights; remain at your homes; pursue your peaceful and customary avocations; raise not your hands against your brethren. Many of your fathers fought for the freedom and independence we now enjoy. Being children, therefore, of the same family with us, and heirs of the same heritage, the arrival of an army of friends must be hailed by you with a cordial welcome. You will be emancipated from tyranny and oppression, and restored to the dignified station of freedom. Had I any doubt of eventual success, I might ask your assistance; but I do not. I come prepared for every contingency—I have a force which will break down all opposition, and that force is but the van-guard of a much greater. If contrary to your own interests, and the just expectations of my country, you should take part in the approaching contest, you will be considered and treated as enemies; and the horrors and calamities of war will stalk before you. If the barbarous and savage policy of

Great Britain be pursued, and the savages are let loose to murder our citizens, and butcher our women and children, this war will be a war of extermination. The first stroke of the tomahawk—the first attempt with the scalping-knife, will be the signal of one indiscriminate scene of desolation. No white man, found fighting by the side of an Indian, will be taken prisoner—instant death will be his lot. If the dictates of reason, duty, justice, and humanity, cannot prevent the employment of a force which respects no rights, and knows no wrong, it will be prevented by a severe and relentless system of retaliation. I doubt not your courage and firmness—I will not doubt your attachment to liberty. If you tender your services voluntarily, they will be accepted readily. The United States offer you peace, liberty, and security.—Your choice lies between these and war, slavery and destruction. Choose then; but choose wisely; and may he who knows the justice of our cause, and who holds in his hand the fate of nations, guide you to a result the most compatible with your rights and interests, your peace and happiness.

By the General,

A. P. HULL,

*Captain of the 13th United States' regiment of Infantry, and Aid-de-Camp. Head-quarters, Sandwich, July 12, 1812.*

WILLIAM HULL.

This proclamation was well calculated to inspire confidence, and secure the friendship of the Canadians. The American troops were in high spirits, anxious to be led against the enemy's post at Fort Malden. The British force, consisting of regulars, militia, and Indians, was inferior to the Americans, as appeared by the official communication of the British general Brock, to his government. The moment seemed fa-



avourable to strike an important, perhaps a decisive blow. The Indians, except a few of whom had joined the British, remained neutral, watching with their usual sagacity, until they could discover on what side victory was likely to perch; nearly all the Canadian militia had deserted, Colonel M<sup>r</sup> Arthur was detached with 150 men, to the river Thames, where he captured a considerable quantity of ammunition, arms, and blankets. Some hundreds of Merino sheep were captured by another detachment.

On the 15th July, Colonel Cass, with about 300 men, reconnoitred the enemy's posts. The Colonel ascended the river Aux Canards, to a ford, where he crossed, and descending on the south side, attacked and repeatedly drove a party of the enemy's regulars, which was stationed at a bridge, five miles above Amherstburg, the enemy having formed and returned three times: night put an end to the pursuit. The Americans returned the following day to camp without interruption. Frequent skirmishing was kept up between other detachments of the American army, and the enemy, in the neighbourhood of Fort Malden. The time of attacking Fort Malden was determined on at a council of field officers, and preparations made for advancing to the attack, when, by an unexpected order, the plan of attack was abandoned, and Canada evacuated on the 8th August, shamefully leaving to their fate, the Canadians who had joined the American standard.

This gave time to the enemy to be reinforced, and it soon was rumoured in the American camp, that the commanding officer intended to surrender his army, in the event of an attack by the enemy. This seemed so unaccountable,



at a time when superiority of force was on the American side, that the officers had resolved, in the event of the rumour being well founded, to divest the general of his command. The execution of this plan was prevented by the absence of two commanding officers of regiments, who were ordered on detachments. The British being reinforced by about 400 men, and the Indians becoming more decided, General Brock advanced, and took a position opposite to Detroit, where, without interruption, he established a small battery.

On the 15th August, the town of Detroit was summoned to surrender, which being refused, a firing began from the British batteries, which was returned by the Americans, and continued, with little effect, until night. At day-light, on the 16th, the firing re-commenced on both sides, the enemy commenced the landing of troops below Detroit, which being soon effected, they marched in close column of platoons, twelve in front, toward the fort of Detroit.

Against this body of troops not a shot was fired, although it advanced in a situation within the range of the American cannon. When the British reached within 100 yards of the American line, orders were given by Gen. Hull for the troops to retreat to the fort; and soon after, the fort was surrendered, and the American army became prisoners of war.

By a proclamation immediately issued by the British commander, (Gen. Brock.) it appears that General Hull had also surrendered the territory of Michigan.

This was a severe and unexpected blow against the Americans. It gave rise to a court martial on the conduct of General Hull, which will be

noticed in its proper place ; it, in a great degree, destroyed the confidence the Canadians had in the government and arms of the United States ; it determined the Indians to take part with the enemy ; and led not only to a prolongation of the war, but to many, or perhaps all of those savage acts of murder, in which the Indians were subsequently engaged, against the citizens of the United States.

General Hull, in his official account, states, that at the time the enemy advanced against Detroit, he could not bring into the field more than 600 men, that the regular force of the enemy, then advancing, was much more than that number, and twice that number of Indians.

An official letter from Colonel Cass, who had a command under General Hull, put the business in quite a different light, concluding with the following paragraph.

“ I was informed by Gen. Hull, the morning after the capitulation, that the British forces consisted of 1800 regulars, and that he surrendered to prevent the effusion of human blood.---That he magnified their regular force nearly five fold, there can be no doubt. Whether the philanthropic reason assigned by him is a sufficient justification for surrendering a fortified town, an army, and a territory is for the government to determine. Confident I am, that had the courage and conduct of the General been equal to the spirit and zeal of the troops, the event would have been as brilliant and successful, as it now is disastrous and dishonourable.”

The British official account is positive as to the inferiority of the enemy's force.

The following extract from the official report of Sir George Prevost, will show how weak the garrison of Amherstburg, or Malden was, at

the time when General Hull passed into Canada, having then under his command nearly 2500 men.

“The garrison of Amherstburg consisted (at the time when General Hull passed into Canada,) of a subaltern’s detachment of the royal artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Troughton; of a detachment of 300 men, of the 41st regiment, under the command of Captain Muir; and of about as many of the militia; the whole under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel St. George, inspecting field officer of militia in the district.”

A few days before the surrender of Detroit, Major Van Horn, of Colonel Findley’s regiment of Ohio volunteers, was detached with about 200 men, to proceed to the river Raisin, to reinforce Captain Brush, who, with a company of Ohio volunteers, were escorting provisions for the army. At Brownstown, a large party of Indians formed an ambuscade, and the major’s detachment received a heavy fire at a few yards from the enemy. The whole detachment retreated in great disorder, and could not, by any exertion of Major Van Horn, be rallied.— On this occasion, there were 7 officers and 10 privates killed, besides a considerable number wounded.

Before the return of Major Van Horn, another detachment consisting of 600 men, under the command of Lieut. Col. Miller, was ordered to proceed to the river Raisin, to open the communication to the river, and protect the provisions, which were under the escort of Captain Brush. Lieut. Col. Miller marched from Detroit on the 8th August; and on the 9th, about 4 o’clock in the afternoon, the van guard, commanded by Capt. Snelling, of the 4th U. S. regi-

ment, was fired upon by an extensive line of Indians and British, at the lower part of Maguago, about 1½ miles from Detroit. Capt. Snelling maintained his ground in a most gallant manner, under a very heavy fire, until the arrival of the main body, under Lieut. Col. Miller, when a general attack was made on the enemy, who was compelled to retreat before the Americans. The route continued until fatigue, and the approach of night, rendered it necessary to desist from further pursuit.

A short time previous to the surrender of Detroit, a provisional agreement was entered into by General Dearborn, and Colonel Baynes, the British adjutant-general, that neither party should act offensively before the decision of the American government should be taken on the subject. This suspension of hostilities, was grounded on a letter from Sir George Prevost, Governor of Lower Canada, to General Dearborn, suggesting the probability of a general suspension of hostilities, in consequence of a proposed suspension or repeal of the British orders in council, of which Mr. Foster, late minister to the United States, had received advices on his arrival at Halifax. Whether Governor Prevost seriously believed all which he represented, or that the suspension of hostilities, which did not include the operations of Detroit, was intended to favour the British army in that quarter, cannot now be determined; it, however, enabled the British to reinforce General Brock, and probably contributed to the fall of Detroit. The American government, viewing the British proposition as coming in an indirect manner, offering no satisfactory security for its observance, and adhering with little variation to their for-



mer pretences, did not hesitate to disagree to the proposal. The armistice terminated on the 8th September.

The disgraceful surrender of Detroit was, in some degree, to be compensated for, by the bravery of American seamen. On the 19th Aug. 1812, the American frigate *Constitution*, Captain Isaac Hull, fell in with his Britannic majesty's frigate *Guerriere*, Captain J. R. Dacres, in lat. 40, 20, N. lon. 55, W. and after a severe action of 30 minutes, during which the Americans displayed great superiority in tactics and courage, the British ship surrendered.

The *Guerriere* suffered so much in her rigging and hull, and was so entirely disabled, that it was found impossible to tow her into port; she was of course burnt, by order of Captain Hull, as soon as the prisoners were removed.

The *Guerriere* had been formerly a French 44, but was rated only at 38; she carried 49 guns.

The following official account of her capture from the French, by the British naval captain, Lavie, places this point in an indisputable view, as the advocates of Britain, sorely hurt by this proof of the superiority of American naval tactics, endeavoured to misrepresent the relative size and force of the American and British frigates.

From Capt. LAVIE to Lord KEITH.

*Blanche, Yarmouth, July 26, 1806.*

"MY LORD—I have the honour to acquaint you of my return to Yarmouth to-day, having in company the *Guerriere* frigate, commanded by Monsieur Hubert, of the Legion of Honour, whom I captured on the 19th inst. in long 62, off the Faro Islands, after a sharp contest of 45 minutes."



“Le Guerriere is of the largest class of frigates, mounting fifty guns, with a complement of 317 men, but they were very soon sadly reduced by our destructive fire, and the ship has also suffered very severely, while the damages of the *Blanche* were confined to the topmasts, rigging, and sails.

“THOMAS LAVIE.”

The following is a return of the killed and wounded.

On board the *Constitution*, one lieutenant of marines, and six seamen—Total killed, 7. Two officers, four seamen, and one marine—Total wounded, 7. Total killed and wounded, 14.

On board the *Guerriere*, killed 15, wounded 63; missing 27—Total, 105.

The most enthusiastic joy was manifested throughout every part of the United States, on the arrival of advices of this engagement. Captain Hull and his men received, wherever they appeared, the most unbounded applauses. Thanks were voted by Congress, and by several public bodies; and Congress appropriated 50,000 dollars, to be given to the officers and crew of the *Constitution*, as an indemnification for the loss sustained by the destruction of the *Guerriere*.

Her navy was the chief boast of England, and on it was her chief reliance; yet she was destined to meet her greatest wounds and disasters on the watery element.

On the 17th July, the British appeared before Sacket's Harbour, with the *Royal George*, of 24 guns, the *Prince Regent*, of 22. *Elmira*, of 20, *Seneca*, of 18, and another armed vessel. A message was sent ashore, demanding the surrender of the American vessel of war, the *Oneida*; and also the late British schooner, *Nelson*,

seized for a breach of the revenue laws. A compliance with this demand being peremptorily refused, the enemy advanced within gun shot. A firing began from a 32 pounder ashore, and was returned by the squadron, which stood off and on. A brisk cannonading was continued for more than two hours, when a shot from the 32 pounder having raked the flag ship of the enemy, as she was wearing to give another broadside, the squadron fired a few guns, and bore away for Kingston, the citizens greeting them with the good old tune of "Yankee Doodle," from all the music at the post. The British shipping appeared to be much injured. Not a man lost on the American side.

The steadiness of the American troops, and the alacrity with which the neighbouring detachments and volunteers, to the amount of nearly 3000, assembled for the protection of this important post, was, at this early stage of the war, a pleasing presage of what might be hereafter expected, when men would become more inured to danger. Col. Bellinger commanded the American troops. Capt. Woolsey, who commanded the Oneida, having sailed from the harbour, and reconnoitered the enemy, returned and moored his vessel, with a spring on her cable, near the battery; and giving the command of her to his lieutenant, he went ashore and took command of the 32 pounder, which, under his direction, did very considerable damage to the enemy.

The Frigate Essex, Captain Porter, sailed on a cruise, from New York, on the 3d July, and arrived in the Delaware, the 7th September. On the 13th August, the Essex fell in with the British sloop of war Alert. The Alert bore

down, and commenced an action, which lasted eight minutes; she was much cut to pieces, had seven feet water in her hold when she struck, and three men wounded. The Essex received no injury.

Captain Porter having thrown the guns of the Alert overboard, despatched her as a cartel to St. John's, in Newfoundland, with about 500 prisoners which he had taken in the Alert, and from other captured vessels.

This measure was adopted in consequence of a written agreement between Captain Porter of the Essex, and Captain Laugharne of the Alert. It was calculated to convenience both parties, and to lessen the evils of warfare. A proposition originating in the humanity of the American commander ought to have been met by the most prompt and faithful acquiescence by the prisoners, and the British commanders. Lieutenant P. Wilmer was sent in command of the Alert, which was to be sailed by her own crew, so great was the confidence placed in their honour; yet it appears that the crew took the command of the vessel from Lieutenant Wilmer, and went on shore without submitting in any manner to his controul. Admiral Sir T. Duckworth, who commanded at St. John's, countenanced this conduct in the first instance, but afterwards submitted to the arrangement, which, he nevertheless, contended, was "utterly inconsistent with the laws of war."

Governor Prevost, of Lower Canada, issued a proclamation on the 19th September, by which all citizens of the United States are ordered to quit Canada by the 15th of October; till which time they may depart with their moveable property, by permission of three of the council.

After that time, every citizen of the United States, found in Canada, will be treated as a prisoner of war, unless he has taken the oath of allegiance.

A considerable force having been assembled in the neighbourhood of Niagara river, under the command of Maj. Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer, with the view, as was generally understood, of effecting a descent upon the British province of Upper Canada; a strong and impatient desire was discovered among the troops to try their strength against the enemy. This gradually rose to such a height, that resistance to it seemed scarcely, if at all possible; patriotism was passing the limits of subordination. "This (says the general in his official communication to Gen. Dearborn) was expressed to me through various channels, in the shape of an *alternative*; that they must have orders to *act*; or, at all hazards, they would *go home*."

Impelled by this consideration, the general made dispositions for the intended attack on the British post at the heights of Queenstown. Some information gained from a person who was engaged to pass over to Canada, and who returned safe, seemed to warrant an attack, which, besides the immediate object might have a controlling effect upon the movements at Detroit, where it was understood the British General Brock had gone, with all the force he could spare from the Niagara frontier.

An intention to transport troops across the river, on the morning of the 11th October, was frustrated through means of a boatman, selected for his skill and steadiness; but who, going ahead in the extreme darkness, passed the intended place far up the river, and there fastened his



boat to the shore, and abandoned the detachment. In this front boat nearly every oar belonging to all the boats were deposited. The expedition was given up, and the detachment returned to camp.

This circumstance, so far from damping the ardour of the troops, seemed to give additional force to the desire of encountering the enemy.— A second attempt was determined on.

A detachment from the 13th regiment consisting of about 300 men under the command of Col. Chrystie, and about 300 militia, commanded by Col. Van Rensselaer, received orders from the general to cross the Niagara River on the morning of the 13th inst. which was in part effected before day, under a very heavy and destructive fire of grape and musket shot from the British.

In crossing the river, three boats with troops one of which contained Lieut. Col Chrystie, were carried by the rapid current of the river far below the point of landing; and as soon as Col. Chrystie's boat touched the shore the only guide to the ground left the colonel.

In consequence of this disaster not more than 200 men, at first effected a landing. Those few, however, marched on under a heavy fire, and formed a line on the front of the battery, where they were sheltered by a bank, upon the summit of which there was a battery, which had proved very destructive to officers and men. From the fire of this battery, and that of a house on their right bank, Col. Van Rensselaer was wounded, and likewise Capt. Armstrong, Capt. Lawrence, Capt Wool, and Lieut. Lent; killed, Lieut. Val-leau and Ensign Morris, all of the 13th.

Col. Van Rensselaer's wounds were severe, a



ball passed through his right thigh, entering just below the hip bone ; another shot passed through the same thigh a little below ; a third through the calf of his leg, and a fourth cartoused his heel. Lieut. Col. Chrystie did not arrive until some time after this, and was wounded in his hand, in passing the river. Col. Van Rensselaer was still able to stand ; and, with great presence of mind, ordered his men to proceed and storm the fort.

Sixty determined men, led by Capt. Ogilvie, seconded by Capt. Wool, (though wounded) and Lieut. Kearney, Lieut. Carr, Lieut. Hugginan, and Lieut. Sammons, Ensign Reeve, of the 13th, Lieut. Randolph, and Lieut. Gansevoort, circuitously mounted the heights, gave three cheers, and immediately charged ; and, after the third charge, gained complete possession, which they kept about ten hours. Among those sixty were ten of the militia. During the time they had possession of the heights, they received some reinforcement. Lieut. Col. Chrystie effected his landing, and a body of militia, amounting, in the whole, to about 500. Col. Scott superseded Capt. Ogilvie in the command ; soon after which the British received a reinforcement from Forts George and Chippawa, amounting to about 1100, including Indians. The Indians were soon repulsed and driven to the wood.

Capt. Ogilvie, of the 13th regiment, who led the detachment that succeeded in taking the redoubt upon the heights, was much exposed while at the top of the precipice ; he resolutely continued brandishing his sword as a signal to his men to advance. The exertions of Capt. Wool, in urging on his men, after he was wounded, were spirited and conspicuous.

After this, both parties were considerably reinforced, and the conflict became severe and general; the enemy was compelled to retreat at every point of attack, and the route was followed up, with great spirit by the Americans.

Reinforcements continued to arrive under Capt. Gibson, of the artillery, Captains Mackesney and Lawrence, of the infantry; and Colonels Mead, Allen, and Stranahan, of the militia. A little before 2 o'clock in the afternoon, Gen. Wadsworth, Lieut. Col. Chrystie, and Maj. Mullany\* passed over. The enemy, at this moment, received a reinforcement of several hundred Indians from Chippawa, and commenced a furious at-

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 \* This statement is given from the best account that could be procured. The compiler has Col. Mullany's authority in saying, that this was the fifth time he passed over during the engagement. From an official report of Col. Mullany to Gen. Van Rensselaer, dated 5th Jan. 1813, (the original of which is in the office of the War Department, but which has not been published) the following extract is given:

"I cannot in justice close this communication, without expressing my astonishment at the omission of its (Col. Mullany's detachment) arduous, its desperate duties in your official detail of that day, although indifferent as to myself, satisfied I will yet have justice done, when the scenes of that enterprize are better known. Many of my officers merited a full share of public notice; and, from my knowledge of you, Sir, to a want of correct information, I ascribe the cause of complaint."

Gen. Van Rensselaer, in reply to Col. Mullany, dated Albany, Jan. 23, 1813, acknowledges and regrets the omission in his official detail, in which the services of the Col. and his command were omitted.

tack, but were promptly met, and routed by the rifle and bayonet. Victory seemed complete.

The General observing a hesitation in the embarkation of troops, he passed over to accelerate their movements. Could the details of this day be here closed, all would be honour, all would be glory to the American character. But it must be recorded; alas! it cannot be concealed, that no persuasion of the general, or of Lieut. Col. Bloom, who, although wounded, rode through the camp, nor of judge Peck, who also exerted himself on this occasion, could influence the remaining troops to pass into the boats. A large reinforcement from Fort George, soon afterwards was seen coming up the river; this reinforcement obliqued to the right from the road, and formed a junction with the Indians in the rear of the heights.

The superiority in numbers of the British and their Indian allies induced the American officers to hold a consultation, at which they were disposed to dispute the ground they held; but a note was received from Gen. Van Rensselaer, informing them he could afford them no assistance, and that he would cover their retreat at the battery at Fort Grey, and furnish boats to re-cross the river; and finding by Col. Stranahan that the militia would no longer act, a retreat was resolved upon. They retreated in good order, without the loss of a man, to the margin of the river but, to their extreme mortification, not a boat was there to receive them, nor did any arrive. After remaining in this extremely painful situation about a quarter of an hour, this little band surrendered to about five times their number.

Previous to this, however, a column of British regulars advanced, commanded by Gen. Brock.

The British General's horse was killed by a private of the name of Wilklow, who was enlisted in Orange county; shortly after which the general himself fell, within pistol shot of the American troops.

The enemy consisted of a part of the 49th regiment, who with Gen. Brock, had signalized themselves in Egypt, and from their valour were called the invincibles. Before this they had never been known to give an inch of ground, and acknowledged, after the surrender, they had never fought with such brave men. They treated their prisoners with tenderness and respect, and allowed them as much merit as brave men could desire. The number of American troops killed amounted to not more than 60, and about 100 were wounded. The number of prisoners, including the wounded, amounted to about 700.

But the victorious enemy, though generous and tender to those who, by the fortune of war, had fallen into their power, imposed no restraint upon their Indian allies from stripping and scalping the dying and the slain that remained upon the field of battle. Capt. Ogilvie himself saw the lifeless body of Ensign Morris stripped even of its shirt, and the skull of one who had been wounded, was seen cloven by a tomahawk.

The general, in his official despatches, bears evidence to the bravery and good conduct of all engaged; noticing, in particular, Gen. Wadsworth; Cols. Van Rensselaer and Scott; Lieut. Cols. Chrystie, Fenwick, Bloom, Allen, Stranahan, and Mead; Majors Spencer, Moseley, and Lush; Captain Gibson, Lieut. Smith, and Ensign Grosvener,

Major General Van Rensselaer resigned the command of the army, on the Niagara frontier,



to Brigadier General Smyth, on the 14th October.

On the 10th November, General Smyth published a proclamation from his camp near Baffaloe. As this document became the subject of much comment, it is given here in full. It was in the following words :

TO THE MEN OF NEW-YORK.

For many years you have seen your country oppressed with numerous wrongs. Your government, although above all others, devoted to peace, have been forced to draw the sword, and rely for redress of injuries on the valour of the American people.

That valour has been conspicuous. But the nation has been unfortunate in the selection of some of those who directed it. One army has been disgracefully surrendered and lost. Another has been sacrificed by a precipitate attempt to pass it over at the strongest point of the enemy's lines, with most incompetent means. The cause of these miscarriages is apparent. The commanders were popular men, "destitute alike of theory and experience" in the art of war.

In a few days, the troops under my command, will plant the American standard in Canada. They are men accustomed to obedience, silence, and steadiness. They will conquer, or they will die.

Will you stand with your arms folded, and look on this interesting struggle? are you not related to the men who fought at Bennington and Saratoga? Has the race degenerated? Or have you, under the baneful influence of contending factions, forgot your country? Must I turn from you, and ask men of the *six nations* to support the government of the United States? Shall I imitate the officers of the British king, and suffer our ungathered laurels to be tarnished by ruthless deeds? Shame, where is thy blush? No. Where I command, the vanquished and the peaceful man, the child, the maid, and



the matron, shall be secure from wrong. If we conquer, we will "conquer but to save."

*Men of New-York!*

The present is the hour of renown. Have you not a wish for fame? Would you not choose in future times to be named as *one of those*, who, imitating the heroes whom Montgomery led, have, in spite of the seasons, visited the tomb of the chief, and conquered the country where he lies? Yes. You desire your share of fame. Then seize the present moment. If you do not, you will regret it; and say, "the valiant have bled in vain; the friends of my country fell--- and I was not there."

Advance then to our aid. I will wait for you a few days. I cannot give you the day of my departure. But come on. Come in companies, half companies, pairs, or singly. I will organize you for a short tour. Ride to this place, if the distance is far, and send back your horses. But remember, that every man who accompanies us, places himself under my command, and shall submit to the salutary restraints of discipline.

ALEX. SMYTH,

Brig. General.

*Camp, near Buffalo, Nov. 10, 1812.*

This proclamation had the effect of bringing to the frontier a very considerable number of volunteers, men who lived the hardy life of farmers, were accustomed to the woods, knew well the use of the rifle, and feared Indians as little as they did Englishmen.

On the 17th November, Gen. Smyth issued a public address to his soldiers, preparatory to an immediately intended entrance into the enemy's territory. The sentiments contained in this address are noble, humane, and soldierly. From such a general and such an army, the public expected a very successful campaign.

On the morning of the 21st November, 1812, a heavy cannonade was opened upon the garrison of Fort Niagara, from all the batteries in the neighbourhood of Fort George, consisting of five detached batteries, two mounting 24 pounders, one mounting a 9, and two mortar batteries. The firing continued thirteen hours; some buildings were set on fire by the hot shot from the enemy, but extinguished without doing material injury.

The garrison at Niagara, in return, opened a tremendous and well directed fire with hot shot. The town of Newark was several times in flames, as also the centre building in Fort George. Capt. M'Keon commanded a 12 pounder in the S. E. block-house, and distinguished himself by his usual gallantry and skill. Capt. Jacks, of the 7th regiment militia-artillery, commanded a 6 pounder on the N. block-house, and together with a part of his own company, though placed in a situation most exposed to the fire of the enemy, maintained their position like veterans. Lieut. Rees of the artillery, had command of an 18 pounder on the S. E. battery; until 10 o'clock, when he received a wound, which compelled him to resign the command to Capt. Leonard, of the artillery. Lieut. Wendell, of the 3d artillery, commanded an 18 and a 4 pounder on the W. battery. Dr. Hooper, of the militia, commanded a 6 pounder on the mess-house; Lieuts. Ganesvoort and Harris had the command of the salt-battery at Youngstown, mounting one 18 and a 4 pounder. These several posts were maintained with resolution, judgment, and great effect. Lieut. Col. Gray commanded the artillery, and gave the most satisfactory proof of his zeal and science. Major Armstead of the corps of engineers, was indefatigable in extending his exertions to all

parts of the garrison. Lieut. Col. George Me. Feely commanded the fort. The American loss consisted of 4 killed, and 7 wounded.

The hopes which General Smyth had raised by his proclamation were not to be realized. Twice the troops embarked, and as often disembarked. Public opinion, hitherto on the side of General Smyth, now began to veer. His courage as well as his patriotism was questioned; censure was followed by insult and menace. The project of invasion was finally abandoned. The volunteers were dismissed, and the army ordered into winter quarters. Thus ended the operations, for this season, of the army of the centre.

Gen. Smyth justified himself on the grounds that he had directions not to pass over with less than 3000 men; that he could not prevail on more than 1500 men to embark; and that an attack on the enemy under such circumstances, was contrary to the opinion of a council of his officers. "My orders (says the general, in reply to a committee from the patriotic citizens of the western counties of New-York) were to pass into Canada with 3000 men *at once*. On the first day of embarkation not more than 1400 men were embarked, of whom 400, that is, half of the regular infantry, were exhausted with fatigue and want of rest. On the second embarkation, only 1500 men were embarked, and these were to have put off immediately, and to have descended the river to a point where reinforcements were not to be expected. On both days, many of the regular troops were men in bad health who could not have stood one day's march; who, although they were on the sick report, were turned out by their ardent officers."

This reply was dated 3d December. On the

8th of the same month, General Peter B. Porter gave notice in the Buffalo Gazette, that he would soon publish a "*true* account of some of the most prominent transactions of those days." In this notice General Porter ascribes the failure of the expedition to the *cowardice* of General Smyth.

General Smyth must remain convicted, in the eyes of the world, of falsehood and cowardice, if he continued passive under such charges. Modern chivalry pointed out the course which must be pursued. General Smyth sent a challenge to General Porter, which the latter accepted.

The parties passed over to Grand Island, on the 13th December; a shot was exchanged, in an intrepid manner, but without effect, when, on the suggestion of General Smyth's second, a mutual explanation and reconciliation took place; and the parties separated.

General Porter, on the following day, delivered the promised statement of transactions to the editor of the Buffalo Gazette, in which paper it accordingly appeared.

The statement is plain and satisfactory; and divested of that asperity, which was probably intended to accompany it.

In this statement, it is represented, that, on the 27th November, there were collected in the neighbourhood of Niagara, 4500 effective men; that the vessels collected for the purpose, were sufficient for the transportation of 3550 men; that the number of men actually embarked were estimated to consist of between 2000 and 2600; that about 2000 more men were paraded on shore, seemingly ready to cross; that several boats of sufficient capacity to carry about 1000 men were still lying unoccupied; and that the enemy, estimated at about 500 men, were drawn up in a line, at about half a mile from the river.



As a proof of what could be effected, had the men been permitted to pass over, General Porter states the bravery and success with which a detachment which crossed over by direction of General Smyth, accomplished its mission; having completely routed the enemy, spiked his cannon, and taken several prisoners. "Out of 12 naval officers, who embarked in this enterprise, nine of them, (says General Porter,) with more than half their men, were killed or wounded."

General Smyth, in a letter to the editors of the *National Intelligencer*, dated 23th January, 1813, refutes the statement of General Porter.

"I affirm, (says General Smyth,) that on the 27th November, there were collected in the neighbourhood of Black Rock, not more than 3500 *effective* men, non-commissioned officers, and privates, of every corps under my command; not more than 1500 of those were liable to be ordered to cross the Niagara, according to opinions generally received. On the 21st, there were 1050 good troops embarked, and also as many irregular volunteers as occupied five boats, estimated at 150. On the morning of the 1st December, the number of men armed with muskets, who were at the navy-yard, embarked or not embarked, did not exceed 2000 men."

In this refutation, General Smyth insinuates that General Porter, acting as contractor to the army, was not prepared to supply the necessary rations, having on the 30th November only 35 barrels of flour on hand, "not two pounds of flour to each man."—"The hostility of General Porter to myself, (says General Smyth,) grew out of the *contract*."

While the expeditions thus progressed from ill-design, to its unavoidable consequence, un-



successful termination, the minor expeditions did honour to the officers who commanded, and the few men who were engaged in them. Among these the following must not be omitted.

The Brigs Adams and Caledonia, which were surrendered to the enemy by General Hull, at Detroit, having arrived and anchored under the British Fort Erie, on the 8th October, 1812, Captain Elliot, of the navy, who had arrived at Black Rock the same day, with a body of sailors from New-York, determined on an attempt to regain them. Having made the necessary dispositions, he advanced at 1 o'clock in the morning of the 9th October, having under his command, 100 men in two boats, including 30 volunteers from the army, with Captain Townson, and Lieutenant Roache, of the artillery; at 3 o'clock he was along side the vessels; in ten minutes they were under way, and the prisoners secured. An unfavourable wind obliged them to run down the river, by the forts, under a heavy fire of round, grape, and cannister shot, from a number of pieces of heavy ordnance and flying artillery; and he was compelled to anchor about 40 yards from one of their batteries; the Caledonia being got into a safe position, a fire was returned from the guns of the Adams, as long as ammunition lasted. It being found impossible longer to withstand the fire of the enemy, which would probably sink the vessel in a short time, he was compelled to cut the cable, and drift down the river, out of reach of the batteries, but remained still exposed to the flying artillery; having thus dropped astern for about 10 minutes, and being deserted by the pilot, he was brought up on the shore of Squaw Island. From this place he sent the prisoners on shore

with much difficulty; and, having himself passed from the brig to the shore, he soon discovered that about forty soldiers had crossed in a boat, from the British side, and boarded the brig; but they were soon compelled to abandon her, with the loss of nearly all their men. During the whole of the morning, both sides of the river kept up alternately a continual fire on the brig, and so much injured her, that it was impossible to have floated her—she was of course destroyed.

A patrolle was stationed on the shore, to co-operate in case of emergency; it was commanded by Lieut. Col. Scott, of the artillery, having under him Major Mullany, of the infantry, as a volunteer, Major Cuyler, Aid to General Hall, and J. Bankhead, Brigade Major to General Smyth's brigade. As Majors Mullany and Cuyler were riding close together, the former received an order from Col. Scott to proceed to the navy-yard, to direct two boats to be manned, and sent to the assistance of the captured vessels; he had but just sprang ahead, in execution of this order, when a round shot from the enemy, which passed through the fore-sail of the Adams, struck, and instantly killed Major Cuyler, and thus deprived the service of a brave and useful officer.

Major Young, of the Troy Militia, commandant of a detachment stationed at French Mills, on the St. Regis river, having received information that a party of the enemy had arrived at the village of St. Regis, and that more were shortly expected, formed a resolution to take them out before they were reinforced. For this purpose he marched a detachment at 11 o'clock, on the night of the 21st October, crossed the

river, at Gray's Mills, about 3, and at 5 in the morning arrived within half a mile of the village, unexpected by the enemy. Here the major made such a judicious disposition of his men that the enemy were entirely surrounded, and after a few discharges, surrendered themselves prisoners, with the loss of 5 killed. The result of this affair was, the capture of 40 prisoners, with their arms, equipments, &c. one stand of colours, and two batteaux, without a man of our party being hurt. They got safe back to camp at 11 o'clock in the morning. The prisoners were sent off to Plattsburgh. Major Young has had the honour of taking the first standard from the enemy in the present war.

The movements of the enemy, during these times, were not to them equally honourable or important.

The village of Ogdensburg, on the St. Lawrence, was bombarded on the 2d Oct. 1812, for 3 hours, from Prescott, opposite; between 20 and 30 twelve and nine pound shot were picked up in the gardens and streets, but no damage was done. The firing was brought on by the attempt of a party of Americans to take some Canadian boats, but they did not succeed. The garrison at Ogdensburg consists of 500 men, under General Brown, from Jefferson county.

The Sunday following, the British prepared 40 boats, with from 10 to 16 armed men in each, and six pieces of artillery, with which they advanced to storm the town. When arrived within a short distance, our troops opened a warm fire upon them, and the contest continued about two hours, when the British, having two of their boats so knocked to pieces, as to oblige them to be abandoned, and one taken, on board of which

were 6 men, fled precipitately to Prescott. No damage was sustained on our side.

From the judicious arrangements made by Col. Benedict, Capt. Forsyth, Capt. Griffin, Major Dimock, Adj. Hotchkiss, Capt. Hubbard, Capt. Benedict, Capt. M-Nit, and others of the troops under their command, as directed by Gen. Brown, had the enemy attempted a landing an immense slaughter must have ensued. No person could have been more attentive than Gen. Brown, through the whole action. Praise is also due to his field, staff, and commissioned officers.

By this action the British are taught, that 400 Yankees will not decline a combat, when attacked by 1000 of their troops. Cols. Lethbridge and Breckenridge, led the British in person.

On the 3d October, the British brig Royal George, went into the Genessee river, and cut out the schooner Lady Murray, and a revenue cutter. There was no force then there that could resist the enemy.

The national pride had been already highly gratified by success on the ocean; the public eye was anxiously directed to that element, in expectation of further glory. The public hope was not to be disappointed.

At day light on the 18th Oct. 1812, about the lat. of 37 deg. north, and lon. 65 deg. west. Captain Jacob Jones, commanding the United States' sloop of war Wasp, of 18 guns, got sight of a British convoy of six large armed merchant ships, under protection of the British sloop of war Frolic commanded by Capt. Whinyates. A signal was made by the Frolic for the fleet to disperse. At 30 minutes past eleven



A. M. an engagement commenced between the two sloops, at a short distance, and continued until the vessels were so close, that the rammers of the *Wasp* were, while loading the last broadside, shoved against the side of the enemy. The *Frolic* was boarded on her forecastle, and immediately surrendered. The manner in which this engagement was maintained, was highly honourable to the Americans. The *Frolic* mounted 22 guns; sixteen of them 32 pound carronades, and four 12 pounders on the main deck, and two 12 pounders, carronades, on the top-gallant forecastle, making her superior in force to the *Wasp*, by four 12 pounders. On board the *Wasp*, there were five killed, and five wounded. The exact loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, as many of the dead lay buried under the masts and spars that had fallen upon the deck, which two hours exertion had not sufficiently removed. Lieut. Biddle, who had charge of the *Frolic*, states, from what he saw, and by information from the officers, the number of killed must have been thirty; that of the wounded, about forty or fifty.

The *Wasp* suffered so much in this action, that both masts fell on the deck a few minutes after separating from the *Frolic*; every brace, and most of the rigging, had been shot away during the action.

In this state, she nearly remained, when, in two hours after the action, the British ship *Poictiers*, of 74 guns, hove in sight; and, soon after took possession of the two sloops, and ordered them for Bermuda.

The captain of the *Frolic*, in his official letter to Admiral Warren, states that every officer was wounded, and the greater part of the men



either killed or wounded ; there not being twenty persons remaining unhurt.

The following resolution of the Common Council of New-York, will show the high light in which they held Capt. Jones and his crew.

*“ Resolved, That an elegant sword be presented to Captain JONES, late of the United States’ sloop of war Wasp, and also the freedom of this city, as a testimony of the high opinion this Corporation entertain of his gallant conduct, in capturing the British sloop of war Frolic ; and that the thanks of the Common Council be presented to his brave officers and crew.”*

The United States’ frigate United States, Captain Stephen Decatur, being on a cruise, fell in, on the 25th October, 1812, with his Britannic Majesty’s frigate Macedonian. Captain J. S. Carden, in lat. 29, N. lon. 29, 30, W. and, after an action of an hour and a half, (17 minutes of which was in close action,) the British frigate was captured. The Macedonian was of the largest class of British frigates, two years old, but four months out of dock, and mounting 49 guns, (the odd one shifting.) This engagement gave another indisputable proof of the superiority of American discipline and gunnery.

The loss on both sides was as follows :

On board the United States, 2 seamen, 2 marines, 1 boy—Total killed, 5.

Wounded, 1 lieutenant, 1 carpenter, 4 seamen, 1 marine—Total wounded, 7 ; of whom, Lieut. Funk. and John Archibald, died of their wounds.

On board the Macedonian, there were 36 killed, and 68 wounded ; 36 of whom severely.

By the muster roll of the Macedonian, it appeared that there were seven impressed Ame-

ricans on board, during the action, two of whom were killed.

The United States and Macedonian arrived off Montaug Point, on the 4th December; but were prevented from reaching New-York before the first day of the new year, 1813.

On the arrival of Captain Hull at New-York, he was presented by the corporation of the city, with the freedom of the city, in a gold box. As soon as Captain Hull entered the council chamber, conducted by aldermen Fish and Mesier, and General Morton, he was addressed by his honour De Witt Clinton, mayor of the city, in an appropriate speech. Captain Hull, with all that modesty so frequently allied to virtuous bravery, made a short, but very becoming reply. The Captain then took the freeman's oath, and retired, amidst an immense crowd, who filled the air with reiterated huzzas. On the following day, a splendid naval dinner was given by the corporation to Captain Hull, Com. Decatur, and Captain Jones, in testimony of the high sense entertained of the merits of these gentlemen. Nothing was omitted to render this dinner truly descriptive of the occasion, and the feelings of the citizens.

On the 9th of January another dinner was given by the corporation, to the crew of the United States. The seamen and marines, having formed in procession, proceeded from the place of landing to the City Hotel, amidst the plaudits of thousands of citizens. On the arrival of the sailors, and they being seated, they were addressed by Mr. Vanderbilt, with his usual energy and perspicuity. The boatswain made a short reply, expressive of the gratitude of his shipmates, and their wish for a further opportunity to prove their

devotedness to their country. At 6 o'clock, the procession was re-formed, when they proceeded to the Theatre, at the express wish and invitation of the managers, who reserved the pit exclusively for their accommodation. The harmony of the day was not interrupted by a single irregularity.

The enemy had some consolation, (if consolation it can be called,) by the capture, in November, of the United States' brig of war Vixen, of 14 guns, by his majesty's frigate Southampton, of 32 guns.

Both vessels were wrecked shortly afterwards, on the desert Island of Conception; at which time most of the crew of the Southampton, throwing off the controul of their officers, refused to do duty.

On this occasion, the intrepid exertions of our tars, aided by their officers, were chiefly instrumental in saving the moveable property on board the frigate. So sensible was Sir James Yeo of the generous conduct of the American sailors, that he drew them up on the island, and publicly thanked them in the warmest terms.

Although a patriotic support of the war was the distinguishing feature of the public sentiment, yet there was a strange apathy too prevalent, which tended not a little to render its early stage unpropitious to the country. Something was necessary to awaken the unroused loyalty of the people. Victory might have that effect; perhaps defeat was a more powerful agent. The defeat and surrender of Gen. Hull, so much disappointed the expectations excited by the general's proclamation, that it is impossible to depict the first effect. The mortification of disappointment, added to the serious loss of a fine army,

threw a temporary gloom over the citizens.— This soon gave way to resentment, and a determination to wipe off the “foul stain.” The spirit of the nation rose, and that of ’76 seemed to return. This sentiment, which pervaded a great proportion of the nation, was most powerful in the western country. All felt the necessity of immediate action; Kentucky and Ohio may be said to have broken loose; an army was ready, as if by magic, prepared to avenge the late disgrace. A leader was wanting—all eyes looked, with a common impulse, towards the hero of Tippacanoe; the united voice of the people called on the governor to dispense with all formalities; and WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON was appointed a major-general, with directions to take command of the north western army. This appointment was confirmed by the President of the United States.

The exposed situation of the north western frontier, after the surrender of Hull, required the utmost exertions for its protection. It was not possible entirely to avert the impending danger.

The Indians had already commenced their savage warfare, by an attack on Fort Dearborn, and the massacre of its garrison. Fort Dearborn (Chicago) was but a weak garrison, consisting of about 50 men, there were also in it a few women and children. A large body of Indians having menaced the fort, it was agreed in a council, which was held with the faithless tribes, that the garrison should be spared on condition of surrendering the place without resistance. They marched out on the 15th Sept. and, when about a mile from the fort, were fired upon, and murdered, with the exception of about 10 or 12, who escaped.



Fort Belview (Madison) on the Mississippi, was attacked on the 4th September, by the Indians, with all the desperation that a want of real courage could inspire; the attack was renewed daily until the 8th, when the Indians, after suffering very severely, withdrew, leaving the brave garrison safe. One soldier, who was out of the fort when the attack commenced, was massacred: no lives were lost in the fort; and only one man wounded.

About 11 o'clock in the evening of the 4th September, Fort Harrison, in the Indiana Territory, was attacked by a vast number of Indians. The garrison was weak, and the most of them, including its intrepid commander, Capt. Z. Taylor, either sick or convalescent. The attack was continued, in a most furious manner, until about sun-rise the following morning, when the savages retired, driving away or shooting all the cattle they could find.

Several expeditions were formed against the Indians, for the protection of the inhabitants, and keeping open the necessary communications. Colonel Russell, with a small detachment of the United States' rangers, proceeded to the head of the Peori Lake, where he destroyed the celebrated Pimertain's town. General Hopkins, with about 1200 troops, left Fort Harrison on the 11th December, and succeeded in destroying several villages along the Wabash; a party of 62 that left the camp, in search of a man who was missing, fell in with a large force of horse and foot Indians: this party suffered a defeat, with a loss of 16, making, with the missing man, 17. Gen. Tupper defeated a numerous body of British and Indians, near the Rapids of the Miami: the difficulty of crossing the river, and want of provi-



sions, obliged the expedition to return, having lost 4 killed; and one being wounded. Colonel Campbell, with 600 men, attacked one of the Massissinewa towns, on the 17th and 18th Dec. and defeated the Indians, after a most desperate conflict: the American loss was 8 killed, and 23 wounded; the Indian town was burned, Colonel John B. Campbell, on the 17th Nov. attacked the savages at a town on the Massissinewa, which he burned, as well as three other towns further down the river, killing several, and taking 37 prisoners: on the morning of the 11th Dec. his camp was attacked by about 300 Indians, who were defeated, after an engagement of about three quarters of an hour. The loss of the Americans in these affairs, was 9 killed, and about 35 or 40 wounded; about 40 of the Indians were killed. The Indians also suffered a defeat from Col. Williams, commanding the Tennessee troops.

These actions were well calculated to inspire the Indians with a proper respect for the Americans; and, if followed up with continued success, would tend to estrange the savage enemy from his British ally; but a sad reverse soon occurred.

A detachment, under the command of Gen. Winchester, being attacked on the 22d Jan. 1813, at Frenchtown, on the river Raisin, by a greatly superior force of Indians and British, aided by several pieces of artillery, suffered a defeat. The Americans lost no honour on this occasion; they defended themselves, and fought with desperation, even beyond the time when prudence and honour would have sanctioned a surrender. Gen. Winchester, being himself a prisoner, agreed to a surrender of the troops under his command, on

condition that they should be protected against the savages, and allowed to retain their private property and side arms. Thirty-five officers, and 490 non-commissioned officers and privates were made prisoners; the number of killed was considerable.

The prisoners who were in health were marched to Malden; the wounded were, contrary to the terms of capitulation, left at the mercy of the Indians. On the morning of the 23d, such of the wounded as were unable to travel, were tomahawked and scalped.

The following is a copy of the report of a committee of Congress, on this subject:

“The massacre of the 23d January, after the capitulation, was perpetrated without any exertion on their part to prevent it; indeed, it is apparent, from all the circumstances, that if the British officers did not connive at their destruction, they were criminally indifferent about the fate of the wounded prisoners. But what marks more strongly the degradation of the character of the British soldiers, is the refusal of the last offices of humanity to the bodies of the dead. The bodies of our countrymen were exposed to every indignity, and became food for brutes, in the sight of men who affect a sacred regard to the dictates of honour and religion.—Low indeed is the character of that army, which is reduced to the confession, that their savage auxiliaries will not permit them to perform the rites of sepulture to the slain. The committee have not been able to discover even the expression of detestation, which such conduct must inspire, from the military or civil authority on the Canadian frontier, unless such detestation is to be presumed from the choice of an Indian trophy, as an ornament for the Legislative Hall of Upper Canada.”

At a meeting of the officers who survived the battle of Frenchtown, held at Erie, (Pa.) the

20th Feb. 1813, the following statement and resolutions were agreed to.

“Whereas it is deemed necessary, that our fellow-citizens should be informed of the late perfidious and brutal acts of the British government, performed by their officers at the battle of Frenchtown.

*Resolved*, That the following statement of the conduct of the British officers, be published to our countrymen :

That when General Winchester was taken prisoner, on the 22d January, 1813, and brought before Colonel Proctor, the British commander, he directed the commanding officer of the Americans (Major Madison) to surrender. Major Madison refused so to do, unless those who surrendered should be free from savage massacre; this was agreed to; and the British officers pledged themselves to have a sufficient force with the wounded, to protect them, and that they should be conveyed to Malden the next morning. They likewise promised to return to the officers their arms at Malden.

Capt. N. G. F. Hart, inspector to the north-western army, being among the wounded, it was proposed by his friends, that they should carry him with them--this they were prevented from doing, by Capt. Elliot, a British officer, and an old acquaintance of Captain Hart's, who promised Capt. H. his special protection--to convey him in his own sleigh to Malden that evening, and informing him that he should be welcome to remain at his house there, until he should recover.

These were the *promises* of the British--Let our countrymen and the world see how they were fulfilled.

At the break of day next morning, the savages *were suffered to commit every depredation upon our wounded, which they pleased. An indiscriminate slaughter took place of all who were unable to walk--many were tomahawked, and many were burned alive in the houses.* Among the unfortunate thus murdered, it is with regret and sorrow we have to name Captains Hart and Hickman.

The arms of the officers, as promised, were never returned. Every species of private property remaining in the tents, belonging to both officers and soldiers, were plundered by the savages.

*Resolved*, That in consideration of the high respect we hold to the memories of both officers and soldiers, who were thus cruelly murdered, by permission of the British commander Proctor, and his subalterns, and those who gloriously fell in the *field*, *defending the only free government on earth*, that each of us wear black crape on our hats, and left arm, for the space of *ninety days*.

*Resolved*, That a similar procedure, testifying their respect for those who were murdered and fell on that day, be recommended to our brother officers and soldiers, who survived it.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, President.

JOHN BECKLEY, Secretary."

The little progress hitherto made by land, against the enemy, had determined the congress and the general government on adopting a more efficient plan of warfare. Several new appointments of officers were made; and Commodore Chauncey was appointed to the command of the lake navy.

The commodore arrived at Sackett's harbour in October, 1812. His great exertions enabled him to prepare a fleet in less than a month, with which he resolved to try his fortune on the lake, although the British fleet was superior in number of vessels, guns, and men.

The commodore sailed from Sackett's harbour on Lake Ontario. On the 8th Nov. fell in with and chased the Royal George, until he lost sight of her in the night: on the following day renewed the chase, and followed her into Kingston harbour, where he engaged her and the batteries, for



nearly two hours—at sun down he hauled off, being obliged, by badness of the weather, to return to Sackett's Harbour.

The Constitution frigate, having undergone every necessary repair, proceeded from Boston on a second cruise, in October. On the 29th December, 1812, in south lat. 13. 6. and west lon. 38. ten leagues distant from the coast of Brazil, fell in with, and captured his Britannic Majesty's frigate Java, after an action of 1 hour and 55 minutes. The Java carried 49 guns, and upwards of 400 men, and was commanded by Captain H. Lambert, a brave and gallant officer. The Java was so perfect a wreck, that it seemed extremely doubtful whether she could be brought to the United States; she was therefore burned in two days after being captured.

The Java had been lately out of dock, having undergone a thorough repair in order to carry out Lieut. Gen. Hislop, who was going as commander in chief to Bombay. Besides her full complement of men, the Java had upwards of 100 supernumeraries, going to British ships of war in the East-Indies; also several officers, passengers, going out on promotion. The number of men was considerably more than that of the Constitution. By her quarter-bill, she had one man more stationed at each gun than the Constitution had. The loss on board the Constitution was 9 killed, and 25 wounded. The enemy had 60 killed, and 101 wounded; but by a letter written on board the Constitution, by one of the officers of the Java, and accidentally found, it was evident that the enemy's wounded must have been considerably greater; the letter states 60 killed, and 170 wounded. This additional number of wounded men have probably died before they



could be removed. Among the wounded on board the *Constitution*, was Captain Bainbridge, the commander: captain Lambert, of the *Java*, was wounded mortally.

General Hislop was immediately paroled with the officers of his staff; and, at the request of General Hislop, in a letter, dated St. Salvador, Jan. 8, 1813, all the officers of the *Java* were in like manner paroled—Commodore Bainbridge restored all the private property of Gen. Hislop, including articles of plate, to a large amount.

The corporation of the city of New-York presented Commodore Bainbridge, with the freedom of the city, on the 8th Dec. 1813.

The following resolution was passed by the Senate of Massachusetts, the 19th February:

*“Resolved*, That the thanks of this Senate be given to Commodore William Bainbridge, and the officers and crew of the frigate *Constitution*, under his command, for their brilliant achievement in capturing and destroying his Britannic Majesty's frigate *Java*; and that the commodore be requested to communicate the same to his officers and crew with an assurance from this branch of the legislature, that they will hold in grateful remembrance, those who fell in fighting for the essential and violated rights of their country.”

Although it is a fact established, beyond the power of contradiction, that every possible indulgence and attention were exercised toward the crew of the *Java*, yet were some of her officers so ungrateful as to charge the Americans with having ill used the vanquished in a variety of ways. In reply to a publication in the *British Naval Chronicle*, for May, 1814, by Thomas Cook Jones, surgeon of the *Java*, and another publication in the same paper, for June, by one of the

lieutenants of the Java, charging the Americans with cruelty, &c. Mr. Amos A. Evans, surgeon of the frigate Constitution, published in the Boston Chronicle, a complete refutation of the British slander, concluding with the following words :

“ I challenge the British to produce a *solitary instance*, where they have given a faithful and candid relation of the result of their actions with us since the declaration of the present war. They have, of late, established for themselves a kind of national character, that, I trust, none will envy them the possession of; they have proved, that although they may not *always* be able to conquer in battle, they can prevaricate, defame, or mistake, with as much ease as any nation on earth.”

Commodore Rodgers sailed from Boston the 8th Oct. 1812, on his second cruise, having under his command the frigate President, the United States, Captain Decatur ; Congress, Captain Smith ; and brig Argus, Captain Sinclair. The President and Congress arrived at Boston in December. During their cruise, they captured the British packet Swallow, with 168,000 dollars on board, and British ship Argo, laden with oil and whalebone, both of which arrived some time before. They saw no enemy's cruizers but the Nymph and Galatea, which they chased, but lost sight of in the night. The squadron have been as far east as long. 22, and to the south as far as lat. 17 N. From the 1st to the 30th Nov. they never saw a sail. On the 22d October, lying to in a gale, the President sprung her mainmast badly, and on the 21st Dec. while lying to in the Gulph Stream, shipped a heavy sea, which swept the starboard gangway, started the boats, killed 2 men, and wounded 7. The President brought in 50 prisoners.

The specie was landed from the President, at the navy-yard in Charlestown, and being placed in six waggons, each carrying the national colours, was thus carried to the state bank in Boston, where it was safely deposited, amidst the huzzas of thousands of spectators.

The Commodore parted company with the United States and Argus the 12th October.

The U. S. brig Viper, Capt Henley, of 12 guns, was captured on the 17th January, 1813, in lat. 29, N. 83, 30, W. by his Britannic majesty's frigate Narcissus, of 32 guns, after a chase of 5 hours.—No fighting.

Commodore Bainbridge left the U. S. sloop of war Hornet, Capt. James Lawrence, off the harbour of St. Salvador, where she remained from the 6th, until the 24th January, blockading the Bonne Citoyenne, and another armed vessel. Being at length driven from her station by the Montague, of 74 guns, which was sent to *relieve* the Bonne Citoyenne. Captain Lawrence proceeded off Demarara river, where, on the 24th February, 1813. he fell in with and engaged his Britannic majesty's brig of war Peacock: the action lasted but 15 minutes, in which short space of time, the Peacock was literally cut to pieces; an ensign, union down, was hung from the fore-rigging, as a signal at once of distress and surrender. Lieut. Shubrick, who was sent on board her, returned with a report that she was fast sinking, having then six feet of water in her hold. The boats of the Hornet were immediately despatched, and every possible exertion made to keep her afloat until the prisoners could be removed, by pumping and bailing, without effect, as she sunk in five and a half fathoms water, carrying down nine of her

crew, and three of the crew of the *Hornet*, viz. John Hart. Joseph Williams, and Hannibal Boyd. Several of the *Hornet's* crew narrowly escaped a similar fate, being saved by jumping into a boat that was lying on the booms, as she went down.

The *Peacock* was one of the finest vessels of her class in the British navy; she mounted 16 twenty-four pound carronades, two long nines, one twelve pound carronade on her top-gallant forecastle, as a shifting gun, and one four or six pounder, and two swivels mounted aft; her crew consisted, at the time of the action, of one hundred and thirty men.

The loss on board the *Peacock* could not be ascertained by Capt. Lawrence, but must have been considerable. Capt. Peake, her commander, and four men were found dead on board, and 33 wounded, most of them severely, three of which died of their wounds, after being removed. The total of killed, wounded and drowned, was certainly 42, and probably more.

The *Espegle*, a British brig, mounting 10 thirty-two pound carronades, and 2 long nine's lay about 6 miles in shore, and within sight of the action: she declined coming in aid of her consort, or to approach the victorious ship although Capt. Lawrence cleared his ship, in expectation of a second engagement.

Captain Lawrence stated, that there were two impressed American seamen on board the late British sloop of war *Peacock*, one a native of the state of New-York, and the other a native of Norfolk. One of them was pressed two years and a half, and the other about 18 months previous, neither of them entered, and both were compelled to fight during the engagement with the *Hornet*.



Before the engagement commenced, the above mentioned American seamen left their station, went to the Captain of the Peacock, and asked his permission to go below, with the crew of the brig Hunter, of Portland, as they could not fight against their country. This request was peremptorily refused by Capt. Peake, and the two Americans were forced to their station, and compelled to fight.

Capt. Lawrence further stated, that another impressed American was reported to have been on board the Peacock, and that he was killed during the action.

The reader should not be carried away with the belief, that the commander of the *Espeigle* was a coward. That may possibly have been the case, but it is far from being probable.—Those who wish to allow to American naval heroes their well earned honours, will be readier to ascribe the modesty of the Englishmen to the effect of American prowess, than to British cowardice. Prudence is a virtue which often requires courage to exercise. Had the commander of the *Espeigle* encountered the victorious American he would be defeated. He probably believed so; and, believing it, he acted with prudence.

The following comment on the capture of the Peacock, is extracted from the *London Globe*.

“The late captain of the *Swallow* packet, captured by the Americans, landed on Monday at Falmouth, from on board the *Childers* sloop of war. He confirms the loss of the Peacock, which struck to the *Hornet*, after a severe and sanguinary conflict, and went down while the enemy were taking out her crew. Sixteen English and four Americans went down in her. The force of the two vessels was



nearly equal. The circumstances, therefore, which have enabled Americans thus to add another laurel to her brow, it is most important to know, and we trust they will be fully inquired into. In the cases of capture by large American frigates, the mercenary writers for the Admiralty have assured their readers that they have, by some charm, been able to practice a *deceptio visus* upon our navy; that although apparently frigates, they are in fact great ships of the line; but as no disparity of size is supposed to have existed in this disaster, Mr. Crocker's scribes will probably give out, that the crew of the *Hornet* were not of the ordinary race of sailors, but that every one was a Hercules in strength, and an Archimedes in science."

The following appeared in a Halifax paper.

"In our extracts from American papers, our readers will find an account of the capture of the *Peacock*. The good fortune of the Americans has not forsaken them; on the contrary, it is more conspicuous in this than in their previous actions. *Every one conversant with gunnery must know, that had a vessel been MOORED for the sole purpose of making an EXPERIMENT, it is not at all likely she would have been SUNK in so short a time.*

Previous to the action with the *Peacock*, Capt. Lawrence captured, on the 4th Feb the English brig *Resolution*, of 10 guns, from Rio Janeiro, bound to Maranhani, which he burned, after taking from her about 23,000*l.* sterling, in specie. On mustering the morning after the action, there were found on board the *Hornet* 277 souls, including the crew of the American brig *Hunter*, of Portland, taken a few days before by the *Peacock*. This additional proof of the superiority of American tactics has not been exceeded by any former instance. It may indeed be said to have decided the relative mer-

its of American and British seamen, the superiority claimed by the British is no longer maintainable—the Americans rank decidedly as first in naval tactics.

Capt. Lawrence, while off St. Salvador, sent a challenge to Capt. Greene, of the *Bonne Citoyenne*, which the latter prudently declined accepting.

The following resolutions passed the Common Council of the city of New-York, on the 29th March, 1813.

*“ Resolved, That the freedom of the city be presented to Captain LAWRENCE, together with a piece of plate with appropriate devices and inscriptions, and that his honour the Recorder be requested to forward the same, with a copy of this resolution.*

*“ Resolved, That in testimony of the high sense which this Common Council entertain of the conduct of the crew of the United States’ sloop of war Hornet, by the capture of his Britannic Majesty’s sloop of war Peacock, in the unexampled short period of fifteen minutes, that the Common Council will give a public dinner to the crew of the United States’ sloop of war Hornet.”*

These many and splendid naval victories deserved not only the applause, but the gratitude of the nation. Congress was not insensible to this. A law passed that body in March, 1813, appropriating the sum of \$25,000, to be distributed among the officers and crew of the *Constitution*, for the destruction of the *Guerriere*; and a like sum of \$25,000, for the destruction of the *Java*; and the sum of \$25,000, to be distributed among the officers and crew of the *Wasp*, for the capture of the *Frolic*.

The United States’ frigate *Chesapeake*, Capt. Evans, arrived at Boston the 10th April, 1813,

from a cruise of 115 days, having sailed from the same port the 17th December, 1812.

From Boston the Chesapeake ran down by the Madeiras, Canaries, and Cape de Verds; thence down on the equator, between long. 16 and 25, where she cruised 6 weeks; thence down the coast of South America, passing within 15 leagues of Surinam, (was in the same place the Hornet sunk the Peacock the day after she left.) down by Barbadoes, Antigua, and most of the windward West-India islands; thence on the United States, between Bermuda and the Capes of Virginia, by the Capes of Delaware, within 12 leagues, by New-York, within 20 leagues, thence through the east channel to Boston.

The Chesapeake captured, during her cruise, 3 British, and 1 American vessel, sailing under a British licence; and re-captured an American schooner. The Chesapeake was chased by two ships of war, (a 74 and a frigate) off the Western Islands. Off the Capes of Virginia, gave chase to a sloop of war, and continued chasing for 2 days, when the sloop escaped in the night. Seven men died of a malignant fever; and 3 were lost by the carrying away of the main-top mast, during a heavy flaw, the day before her arrival in port.

General Harrison was at Fort Meigs the 20th April, 1813, and gave directions to prepare to defend the place against an attack, which he apprehended, from the movements of the enemy. Fortifications were accordingly carried on with great diligence, and every means used to animate the men to defend the post. On the 26th and 27th, the reconnoitering parties of the enemy appeared on the opposite shore, but soon retired.

The Indians were sent across the river during the night of the 28th, and was placed so as to surround the garrison. The siege commenced in form, on the 29th, and firing was kept up during this and the following day, by the enemy, whose works were considerably impeded and injured by the firing from the fort. By the 1st of May, the works of the fort were so far completed, as to enable the besieged to give the enemy a very warm reception, silencing one of their guns several times. During the 2d and 3d, the fire on both sides continued very brisk.

On the 4th, General Clay reached Fort Winchester, with upwards of 100 men, for the relief of the American garrison. On the 5th, a part of General Clay's men arrived, and instructions were sent to him by General Harrison, directing him how to act in his advance towards the fort.

Great zeal, and undaunted courage, are true characteristics of the American soldiers; to these qualities the Kentuckian adds a wonderful contempt of danger. On this occasion, the enemy received much benefit from that cool caution which enabled him to draw the uncalculating soldier into defiles, and within the reach of his ambuscade. Col. Dudley, who was charged with despatches for Gen. Clay, received the command of a detachment of Clay's men, landed on the opposite side of the river, with a view to attack the enemy's batteries; he behaved with great courage, but pursued the enemy until he was drawn into an ambush, where the greater number of his men were destroyed by numbers vastly superior; many of those who surrendered, were afterwards tomahawked and scalped by the savages. Col. Dudley was among the killed. Gen. Clay, who continued in command of the remain-



der of his detachment, having landed near the fort, permitted the men to pursue the enemy into the woods, and was saved from a fate similar to that of the heroic and unfortunate Dudley, by the prudence and foresight of Gen. Harrison, who sent out a party to support Clay, and defend his retreat. The Indians took advantage of the opportunity this afforded them, to attack the boats, which Gen. Clay left unguarded; the sick men in the boats were butchered, and the baggage carried off.

The bravery of the American troops during these conflicts, were remarkably brilliant. Frequent charges were made, under direction of Col. Miller, Major Alexander, Captains Croghan, Neving, Bendford, and Lougham. Every battery on the American side of the river were successfully carried.

The enemy, after this, thought only of retreating, which he effected in great hurry on the 9th. An exchange of prisoners was previously effected.

The American loss, during 13 days the enemy were before the fort, amounted to 81 killed, and 180 wounded, exclusive of the loss of Dudley's detachment, which exceeded 200 in killed and missing.

The enemy's loss must have been much greater, as his number of men far exceeded that of the Americans. The enemy was frequently defeated by detachments not more than a third of his number.

Col. Miller, with 350 men, made a sallie, in which he defeated the enemy, consisting of 200 regulars, 150 militia, and 500 Indians. Captain Sehre's company of Kentucky militia, maintained its ground against four times its number, until rescued from unavoidable destruction, by the



bravery of Lieut. Gwynne, of the 19th regiment, and a part of Capt. Elliot's company.

From the best account, the besiegers consisted of 560 regulars, 800 militia, and more than 2000 Indians.

On the 25th April, 1813, Commodore Chauncey sailed from Sackett's Harbour, having on board his fleet about 1700 troops, destined to commence operations against Canada. They arrived opposite Little York, the capital of Upper Canada, on the morning of the 27th April, and immediately commenced the landing of the troops, under a heavy fire from the enemy.—After a very severe and sharp contest of half an hour, the enemy was repulsed by a number far inferior to theirs. As soon as the remainder of the troops had landed, the enemy retired to his works. One battery being carried, the troops were advancing towards the main works, when a tremendous explosion took place from a magazine previously prepared, and which threw out an immense quantity of stones, by which the Americans lost in killed and wounded, about 200 men; among the killed, the gallant Brigadier-General Pike. The British regular troops having retreated, the commanding officer of the militia agreed to terms of capitulation, and the capital of Upper Canada was surrendered to the American troops. The American loss in killed and wounded, was 269. The enemy's loss in killed, wounded and prisoners, 930.

As an evidence of the barbarity of the enemy, the following despatch from Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy, is given :

Sir,—I have the honour to present to you by the hands of Lieut. Dudley, the British standard, taken

at York on the the 27th of April last. accompanied by the mace, over which was hung a human *scalp*.— These articles were taken from the parliament house by one of my officers, and presented to me. The scalp I caused to be presented to General Dearborn, who, I believe, still has it in his possession. I also send, by the same gentleman, one of the British flags taken at Fort George on the 27th of May. I have the honour to be, very respectfully, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

The riflemen, under Major Forsyth, first landed. under a heavy fire from the enemy ; General Pike, to whom the immediate command of the troops was entrusted, landed as promptly as possible after, the remaining troops soon followed. The contest, on the first landing of the troops, was sharp and severe ; the enemy deriving much advantage from the circumstance that Maj. Forsyth was driven by adverse wind from the destined point of landing. As soon as Gen. Pike landed, he ordered his men to advance up the bank, which they resolutely performed in face of a warm discharge of musquetry. The moment Pike reached the top, and was about ordering a charge, the enemy hastily retreated. General Dearborn went ashore as soon as he learned that General Pike was wounded. The town capitulated to Col. Pierce, of the 16th infantry, on whom the command devolved after General Pike was disabled. General Sheaffe commanded the British.

On the 22d May, 1813, Commodore Chauncey sailed from Sackett's Harbour, having 350 men of Col. M'Comb's regiment on board, and arrived near Niagara on the 25th ; the other parts of his squadron had arrived before, and landed their

troops. The commodore had an immediate interview with Gen. Dearborn, and a plan of operations against the enemy was agreed on. On the 26th the commodore reconnoitered the position for landing the troops; and, at night, sounded the shore. The morning of the 27th, was fixed on for an attack on the enemy at Fort George. The heavy artillery, and as many troops as could be stowed, were taken on board the fleet, the remainder were ordered to embark on board boats, and follow the fleet. At 3 o'clock in the morning, a signal was made for the fleet to weigh, and the troops were embarked on board the boats before 4; and soon after Generals Dearborn and Lewis went on board the fleet. In the course of the morning the different vessels advanced, and took positions as directed. All the vessels anchored within musket shot of the Canada shore; and in ten minutes after they opened upon the batteries, they were completely silenced and abandoned. The light troops, under Col. Scott and Maj. Forsyth, landed at 9 o'clock; Gen. Lewis's divisions with light artillery, under Col. Porter, supported them. Gen. Boyd's brigade landed immediately after the light troops; and Generals Winder and Chandler followed in quick succession. The moment had arrived which must put the courage, skill, and patriotism of the soldier and the citizen to the most trying test. Every apparent advantage was on the side of the enemy. The British commander expected the attack, and he was prepared to resist it; it was broad day light before a landing could be effected, which circumstance gave to the enemy sufficient time to ascertain the point of attack, and to collect and arrange his whole force; a ravine and wood concealed

his force; his position was naturally strong, being the brow of a high bank, so steep that the artillery, which landed with Boyd's brigade, with the utmost exertions of the men, could not be brought into the action till some time after the enemy had broke and fled; the enemy's force exceeded 2000 regulars, and, including militia and Indians, amounted to at least 2500 men. His regulars were veterans of tried courage, great experience, and long service; his militia were trained and disciplined, his savages wrought into the most phrenzied animosity against the Americans. Against this host, the Americans could bring only 1800 men, raw recruits, almost strangers to discipline, not innured to danger, and few of whom had ever seen a battle. Such was the disparity, such the danger to be encountered, and such the enemy to be vanquished. The American boats being too few in number, were crowded with men; on their approaching the shore a most tremendous fire was opened on them. The lake was covered with foam, and the bank was enveloped in a continued blaze. Fortunately the aim of the enemy was not so accurate as his fire was rapid. No sooner had the light troops under Col. Scott landed, than, under their gallant leader, they attempted to gain the bank. Thrice with the most persevering courage was the attempt made, and thrice were they repelled by an enemy more than five times their number. Boyd with the first brigade, had by this time landed, about five minutes after Scott. The troops were immediately formed in platoons and companies, and rushed up the bank. Boyd was the first to gain the summit, and for a moment was alone exposed to the enemies fire. His distance from the British lines was not more than eight or ten



yards at furthest, when every bayonet was instantly directed towards him. But the troops had caught too large a portion of the spirit of their chief, to leave him long in this perilous situation. He was quickly surrounded by his brave companions, and our line was soon formed at a distance, varying from five to ten yards from that of the enemy. It was not till this time that the battle could be said to have fairly commenced. The patient courage of our raw recruits had been most severely tried, in approaching the shore, amidst showers of bullets, in receiving with unshrinking firmness, a tremendous and destructive fire, which they could not return. Their intrepidity was now to be proved in the face of superior numbers of veterans, strengthened by a considerable irregular force of militia and Indians. The fire of our men was rapid and exact, to a degree seldom surpassed; but the superiority of the foe enabled him to maintain his ground about fifteen minutes. The victory was yet doubtful, when the men heard the voice of their chief exclaiming *the enemy fly*. The effect of this cheering sound in our ranks was decisive. It produced an instantaneous movement of our whole line. And the enemy before crossing bayonets, broke and fled with the utmost precipitation, leaving upwards of one hundred dead on the field of battle, two hundred wounded, and one hundred prisoners. The victory was complete. Boyd's brigade, and Scott's light troops, who alone were in the battle, pursued the enemy to Queenstown. If any thing could enhance the value of the victory, it was the fact of its being purchased at so trifling a loss.

The enemy lost 108 killed, 163 wounded, and 113 taken prisoners. The Americans lost 39

killed, and 111 wounded. In the enemy's loss, 507 militia, who were parolled, are not included.

The merits of this battle, so far as they appertained to the commander, belonged to General Boyd. He commanded during the whole of the action, the division under General Winder not being able to reach the scene of action until after the enemy had fled.

*In in-  
personal  
scoundrel  
indeed*  
Prior to the taking of Fort George, three Americans in the camp, who refused to bear arms, were, by order of Col. Clark, taken out, and without ceremony shot! This infernal scoundrel met with his deserts soon after—he was killed at the time of the surprise of Generals Winder and Chandler.

A fire was kept up at intervals, during the succeeding night, from the batteries at Fort Erie. On the morning of the 28th, all the magazines from Chippawa to point Albino were blown up, the enemy retreated; and Fort Erie, was entered in the afternoon by the American troops.

In these different transactions, Commodore Chauncey bore a spirited and useful part. The loss on board his fleet consisted of 5 killed, and 11 wounded.

Capt. Perry, afterwards known as the hero of Erie, volunteered his services on this occasion, and materially aided in securing success. “He was, according to Com. Chauncey’s report, “present at every point where he could be useful, under showers of musketry, but fortunately escaped unhurt.”

The enemy, probably with a wish to perform some exploit that might ballance his losses in the neighborhood of Niagara, prepared with a strong force, to attack the American post at Sackett’s Harbour. On the 28th May the enemy’s fleet

appeared, accompanied by a large number of boats. Lieut. Chauncey, of the navy, came in from the lake, firing alarm guns. Gen. Jacob Brown, who commanded the fort, made every possible disposition to repel the menaced attack. On the morning of the 29th, 33 large boats, filled with troops, came off from the enemy, and proceeded to Garden Island, under cover of some gun-boats. The militia, stationed near where the enemy proposed to land, fired with considerable effect, and then fled from their post. The enemy effected a landing with about 1200 men at Horse Island. A detachment of militia, under command of Capt. M. Nitt, threw themselves, with considerable effect, on the rear of the enemy's left flank, while the regulars, under Col. Backus, engaged and routed him. Gen. Prevost who commanded the British expedition, retreated with great precipitation, under protection of the guns of his vessels; and thus saved himself and men from being made prisoners. According to a previous arrangement, it was agreed, that, in a certain event, the stores, &c. at the navy-point, should be destroyed. This event did not happen; but some person, unauthorised, brought information to Lieut. Chauncey, that the battle was lost—the stores, accordingly, were destroyed.

Gen. Jacob Brown, of the state of New-York who commanded the land forces at Sackett's Harbour, gave a substantial proof of those military talents, which, in all his subsequent operations, were so conspicuously useful to his country, and so uniformly honourable to himself, that even envy never dared lisp an insinuation discreditable or dishonourable to the general. Sir James Lucas Yeo commanded the British fleet.

The enemy's loss was very considerable, including several officers of distinction. The Americans lost about 150 in killed and wounded; Col. Mills was killed, and Col. Backus mortally wounded. About 400 regular troops sustained the heat of the action.

At the close of the action, a British barge, with a naval lieutenant, under a flag of truce, came to the bank of the river, and demanded of an officer who was standing there, in the name of the general and commodore, the surrender of Sackett's Harbour. The officer replied "No," and the flag returned,

The pride and presumed authority of Britain on *her own domain*, the ocean, was materially tarnished. The laurels plucked from France, Spain, Portugal, and Holland, were withering, and seemed to be transferred to adorn the brows of the hitherto despised commanders of the *Lilipulian* fleet of America. It was resolved, by the enemy, to retrieve lost honour. An expedient was resorted to which was successful, so far as the capturing of a ship, yet an astonished and admiring world remained unaltered in the opinion, that the superiority of American tars was not lessened by the event, nor the fading lustre of British invincibility, in any manner retrieved.

For some time before the first of June, the British frigates Tenedos, Bellepole, and Shannon, were off the harbour of Boston, where the Chesapeake lay. The Tenedos and Bellepoule, having put a part of their crew on board the Shannon, proceeded to sea. The Shannon (the best frigate in the British navy,) appeared alone off the harbour, on which the Chesapeake got under weigh, at meridian, on 1st June; at 15



minutes before 6, an action commenced, within pistol shot, and in a few minutes, the vessels closed; the arm chest of the Chesapeake was blown up by a hand grenade, thrown from the enemy's ship, and immediately after, the Chesapeake was carried by boarding, and the private signals of the navy of the United States fell into the hands of the enemy.

The enemy boasted not of this victory, it cost him too dear, and was an indisputable proof of American bravery. Never was there such carnage between two ships, in so short a time.—The loss on board the Shannon cannot be exactly ascertained; the loss on board the Chesapeake, was 48 killed, and 96 wounded. Total killed and wounded, 144.

Every officer, upon whom the command of the ship would devolve, was either killed or wounded previously to the capture of the vessel. The brave Capt. Lawrence was mortally wounded.

On the authority of Capt. John Upton, commander of the privateer Cossack, of Salem, the following circumstances were published in an eastern paper :

“ After the enemy had complete possession of the ship, and the men were ordered from the tops Mr. Berry, a midshipman, who commanded the mizen top surrendered himself as a prisoner, when two sailors rushed up, and seizing him by the collar, *attempted to throw him overboard*, but he got within the shrouds, when they seized him by the heels, and threw him on the deck ! Being stunned by the fall, he lay some time senseless, and when he came too, he was cut over the head with a cutlass which nearly terminated his existence. Mr. Livingston, another midshipman, after receiving a musket ball

through his body, was run through the body three times, notwithstanding his repeated cries for quarters, (and after the enemy had possession of the ship!) he lived long enough to express his indignation at the brutality of his enemies, and expired in a few hours. Three men were killed in the hold after the capture of the ship; and they even fired into the *cockpit*, among the wounded and dying! Eleven of the Chesapeake's *officers* were confined in a small place, 9 feet by six, with a guard at the door, till their arrival at Halifax, and only 1 or 2 permitted to come out at a time. Men were shot at in coming down out of the tops to surrender themselves, and other instances of barbarity took place, disgraceful to a civilized people."

The boasting of British editors and the rejoicings of British partizans, were rather mad than enthusiastic on the recovery of her trident by the mistress of the deep; but this rejoicing did not long continue; the facts connected with the engagement could not be long concealed. The cowardly superiority of the enemy, the unexampled bravery of the Americans, and the great loss of blood in defence of their flag, especially when contrasted with former engagements in which the enemy was defeated, left no solid ground for exultation, nothing of which to boast. The unprejudiced reasoner will be yet found holding the laurel, and doubting whether to award it to the victor or the vanquished. The honours conferred on Capt. Broke, by his countrymen, were justly due to great valour, of which he is certainly possessed, although in this instance, it was tarnished by a dastardly plan to render success certain.

The body of Capt. Lawrence was interred at Halifax, on the 8th June; on which occasion

the British officers joined in procession, to show their respect for a naval commander, whose heroism, skill and demeanor, drew respect from all, even from the enemy.

Captain Crowninshield, of Salem, (Ms.) having obtained a flag of truce, proceeded to Halifax in the brig Henry, at his own private expense; and, being permitted to take on board his vessel, the body of Captain Lawrence, and also that of Lieutenant Ludlow, brought the corpses to Salem, where a funeral procession took place, on the 17th August, with every mark of regret, esteem, and gratitude, which the citizens could bestow. Judge Story delivered a suitable oration: the effect produced on the audience when the orator pronounced the last dying words of Lawrence, "DONT GIVE UP THE SHIP," may be conceived; to describe it would be impossible.

Mr. Edward N. Cox, brother-in-law to Captain Lawrence, proceeded to Salem, and, having received the bodies of the two heroes, conveyed them to the city of New-York, where they were finally interred. The arrangements for a public funeral were made, under the direction of a committee of the common council of the city.

On Thursday, the 16th September, pursuant to arrangements, the bodies of our valiant countrymen, Lawrence and Ludlow, were finally consigned to the peaceful tomb. The unusual number which swelled the mournful procession, and the undissembled sorrow which marked every countenance from the highest to the lowest order, evinced in an unparalleled degree, the public sympathy, and that the honours paid to the "mighty dead" were not more conspicuous than deserved. On no similar occasion have we

witnessed a testimonial of respect so universal and sincere. It was indeed a day of mourning. The hearts of hoary patriots, and youthful heroes, beat in solemn unison, and the bright eye of beauty glistened with a tributary tear. Not only the reflections arising from such a scene, but every transaction connected with the proceedings of the day, were calculated to inspire with reverence the coldest and most disinterested spectator.

The concourse of spectators who witnessed this interesting and impressive exhibition, was innumerable, and is supposed to amount to forty or fifty thousand. The streets were lined, the windows crowded, and the roofs covered with citizens, viewing the grand and solemn spectacle. The procession of boats in the harbour, from its novelty in particular, attracted much attention, and the wharves and the rigging of the vessels in the docks, were crowded with spectators.

The corporation made a provision of 1,000 dollars for each of the two infant children of Captain Lawrence.

An application to the British naval officer, Captain Oliver, for permission to convey the bodies of Lawrence and Ludlow, by water, to New-York was shamefully refused.

The following extracts, translated from a French paper, is worthy of a place here.

"The British, who had triumphed in so many naval combats, previously to the prevailing American war, have long relinquished the practice of rejoicing for victories obtained over a single frigate. If an achievement of that sort took place against any of the European powers, the detail of the action was merely inserted in the London Gazette, the papers



of the metropolis echoed the narrative, paid a pressing compliment to the officer, and the affair went off, being recorded *pro memoria*, in the Naval Chronicle, as a thing of course. Votes of honour from the corporation of London, a sword of a hundred guineas value, and parliamentary encomiums, were reserved for the hero who should destroy a fleet. The battle of the Nile, that of Trafalgar, and the like, were alone brilliant enough to excite the applause of a people grown callous to common feats of renown, and who, accustomed to vanquish every thing on the ocean, believed themselves omnipotent on that element. In the Americans the British have found an enemy that has obstructed the agreeable train of their maritime ideas. The citizens of the United States are the best seamen in the world. Their officers are men of nautical science, of great experience, and generally in the prime of life. The first naval combat of the war, marked, not a simple equality of skill and courage in the men of the two countries, but a decided superiority in favour of the Americans. If the English pride was mortified at the sudden reverse in the capture of the *Guerriere*, the whole British government was thrown into consternation at the capture of the *Macedonian*, the *Java*, the *Frolic*, and the *Peacock*. Such rapid and successive defeats made the cabinet of St. James bristle again; it seemed as if all the English captains were doomed to pass, one after the other, under the Yankee yoke, or to the regions of the dead!"

"A triumph gained by something very like an artifice, has given occasion to the most extravagant demonstrations of joy in London. A member of Parliament, whose name is *Croaker*, which in the English tongue, signifies a noisy, but contemptible reptile, has pronounced on the occasion a most preposterous eulogium, and the corporation of London have treated the affair as if the fleets of all the

world had been anchored in the Thames, as trophies of their valour! Who is there that does not perceive in this vapouring of the Islanders, a *real fear* for their ultimate naval superiority? The Americans will soon recover from this event. They are a people that do not yield to misfortune. We had some experience of them 30 years ago; and they have already evinced that they have not degenerated."

The barbarous usage which the crew of the *Chesapeake* received from the enemy, when contrasted with the treatment which the brave Lawrence and his crew observed, when they were victors, is the best possible comment on the character of both nations.

It is a fact worthy of note, and in the highest degree honourable to our brave tars, that on the day preceding the destruction of the *Peacock*, the crew of the *Hornet* made a subscription, and supplied the prisoners (who had lost almost every thing,) with two shirts, and a jacket and trousers each.

The following is the official report of an extraordinary event which occurred June 6.

Copy of letter from Major-general Dearborn, to the secretary of war.

*Head-Quarters, Fort George, June 6, 1813.*

Sir—I have received an express from the head of the lake this evening, with intelligence, that our troops, commanded by Brig. Gen. Chandler, were attacked at two o'clock this morning by the whole of the British and Indian forces, and by some strange fatality, though our loss was small, (not exceeding thirty) and the enemy completely routed and driven from the field, both Brig. Generals Chandler and Winder, were taken prisoners. They had advanced to ascertain the situation of a company of artillery, when the attack commenced. General Vincent is said to be among the killed of the enemy; Colonel

Clarke was mortally wounded, and fell into our hands, with 60 prisoners of the 49th British regiment. The whole loss of the enemy is 250. They sent in a flag with a request to bury the dead. Gen. Lewis, accompanied by Brig. Gen. Boyd, goes on to take the command of the advance troops."

It appears, that on this occasion, the advanced guard of the American army commenced a sharp skirmish with the advance of the enemy, in the afternoon of the 5th June: the latter was compelled to retreat into a thick wood. In the evening, the Americans took a position behind Stoney-creek; the light infantry and part of the rifle corps, on the right of the 25th regiment, formed the right wing; the artillery, under Capt. Townson, and L. Leonard, the centre; the 5th, 16th, and 23d infantry, and some riflemen, the left; and the cavalry in the rear; the picket guards were strong, and so placed, as to surround the encampment with centinels. The whole force did not exceed 1000 men, but their disposition was the best that could be made. Three hundred men were encamped on the border of the lake, for the protection of the boats.

About 2 o'clock in the morning, the enemy forced the picket, and attacked the encampment, in the dark with his whole force of regulars and Indians. The Americans withstood and resisted the enemy with such resolution and success, that when the day dawned, none of the enemy were to be seen, but the killed and wounded, who covered the field of battle.

The attack began on the right and was gallantly repelled by the fire of the light troops and 25th regiment, commanded by Maj. Smith. In a few minutes it became general along the whole line, and was nobly returned by the ar-

tillery of the centre, commanded by Captains Townsend, and L. Leonard, and by the troops of the left wing, viz. the 5th under Lieut. Col. Milton, the 23d commanded by Maj. Armstrong, and the 16th. The fire continued with little intermission for one hour, during which time the enemy attempted, by frequent charges, to break our line, but without effect, being obliged to give way by the well directed fire of our brave troops.

The 13th and 14th regiments (which had been detached the preceding evening) were active in making prisoners, and advanced with much ardor to the field, in hopes of sharing with the gallant 5th, and 22d, 23d, and light troops, the glory of another combat. But the unfortunate capture of Brig. Gens. Chandler and Winder, who were taken in the action unknown to any part of the army, and hurried to the enemy's lines, prevented the future operations from being carried into effect, with the promptitude which assuredly would have taken place, had either of those officers been present to command.

As soon as it was discovered that generals Winder and Chandler were prisoners, Colonel James Burn, on whom the command devolved, summoned a council of war, a majority of whom decided, that the army ought to retire to its former position, at Forty-mile creek.

The army on this occasion has proved its firmness and bravery, by keeping its position in a night attack, in which the yells of the Indians, mingled with the roaring of cannon and musketry were calculated to intimidate. The enemy charged repeatedly, and so dark was the night, that our army could not distinguish friend from foe; in one of these they succeeded in



carrying off a 6 pounder, howitzer, and a caisson, to the great mortification of our brave artillery. It is presumed it was on that occasion also that we lost our generals, who were distinctly heard encouraging our men to fight. The squadron of dragoons remained formed and steady at their posts, but could not act on account of the darkness of the night, and the thickness of the adjacent woods.

*Report of killed, wounded and missing, in the action of the 6th June, at Stoney Creek.*

*Killed*—1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 15 privates.

*Wounded*—1 captain, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, and 34 privates.

*Missing*—2 brigadier-generals, 1 major, 3 captains 1 subaltern, 9 sergeants, 4 corporals, 80 privates.

*Total*, killed, wounded and missing, 154.

Correct returns from the reports of the different corps in the action of the 6th inst. at Stoney Creek.

J. JOHNSON, Ast. Adj. Gen.

The enemy acknowledged to have on this occasion, the 8th or king's regiment, 280, men; 49th regiment, 430—Total regular 710, besides "a powerful body of Indians under the Chief Norton." As the enemy makes no mention of his militia, and he is known to under-rate his actual force in every action, it may be supposed that his force, in the engagement at Stoney-creek, was very considerable.

The American army took up a position at Forty-mile creek, 10 miles in rear of the ground on which it had been attacked. Here it was joined at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th June, by a reinforcement under the command of Gen. Lewis. At 6 o'clock in the evening, the hostile fleet hove in sight; the Americans lay on their arms during the night. At dawn of day the

squadron appeared about a mile from the shore; about 6 o'clock towed in a large schooner, (it being a dead calm,) with a view to destroy a number of boats attached to the American army which lay on the beach. By means of a temporary furnace, constructed in half an hour, under direction of Capt. Totten, of the engineers, and by the successful fire from 4 pieces of artillery, worked by the men of Capt. Archer and Towson's companies, the enemy's schooner was compelled to retire, without effecting the destruction of the boats. A party of Indians, having occupied a commanding eminence, commenced an attack on the Americans, but were soon dislodged, and forced to retreat before a party of volunteers, under command of Lieut. Eldridge, adjutant in Col. Chrystie's regiment. Sir James Yeo, commander of the enemy's fleet, having failed in his attack on the boats, sent a flag to the American commander, demanding a surrender of the army; to this a verbal negative was given. On the 14th, a part of the camp equipage and baggage were put in boats, and the weather being favourable, the boats, put off, without waiting for a detachment of 200 men, which was ordered to go on board for the purpose of protecting them, in case of being attacked. It was a short time calm, but a breeze springing up, when they had progressed about three miles, they were borne down upon by an armed schooner; the most enterprising kept on and escaped, others ran to the shore and deserted their boats; twelve of the boats, principally containing baggage of the officers and men, were taken. At 10 o'clock, Gen. Lewis put the army in motion, in order to return to Niagara; the Canadian militia and savages hung on their flanks and rear, during the retreat,

Lieut. Col. Børstler was detached on the evening of 23d June, with 570 men, to a place called Beaver-dams, about 9 miles from Queenstown, to disperse a body of the enemy collected there. The enemy's force was understood to consist of above 80 regulars, 150 or 200 militia, and 50 or 60 Indians. Col. Børstler's detachment reached within about two miles of Beaver-dams, at 8 o'clock in the morning, when it was attacked from an ambuscade, consisting of 500 regulars, and 100 Indians, but soon repulsed the enemy, and then retired to a clear field, and sent an express for reinforcements. A reinforcement of 300 men, under command of Col. Chrystie, was quickly marched to the aid of Col. Børstler; but, on arriving at Queenstown, was informed, that Lieut. Col. Børstler, with his command, had surrendered to the enemy. The reinforcement returned to camp. The American troops fought with great bravery for two hours, while surrounded by superior numbers. General Dearborn, in his official statement, dated at Fort George, June 25th, expresses his surprise, "why it should have been deemed proper to remain several hours in a position surrounded by woods, without either risking a decisive action, or effecting a retreat, remains to be accounted for, as well as the project of waiting for a reinforcement from a distance of fifteen or sixteen miles." This difficulty was soon cleared up by Major Chapin, who commanded the militia at the battle of Beaver dams, but who arrived at Buffalo in the night of the 13th July, having, together with his company, escaped from the enemy, after being prisoners of war. Capt. Chapin stated, that the enemy was considerably superior in number, notwithstanding which, Lieut. Col. Børstler

would have been able to maintain his position, or cut a passage through the enemy, so as to effect a retreat; but at this juncture a British officer rode up and demanded the surrender of the American party. The demand was made, he said, to prevent the effusion of blood. He asserted also, upon his honour, and declared in the most solemn manner, that the British regular force was double that of the American, and that the Indians were 700 in number. Lieut. Col. Boerstler, under a belief of these facts, and thinking it impracticable to get off the wounded, whom he was unwilling to abandon to the mercy of the savages, and deeming it extremely uncertain whether a retreat could be effected, thought proper to agree to terms of capitulation, which were at length signed by himself on the one part, and by Lieut. Col. Bishop on the other.

Capt. Chapin makes the following statement:

“The articles of capitulation were no sooner signed, than they were violated. The Indians immediately commenced their depredations, and plundered the officers of their side arms. The soldiers too were stripped of every article of clothing to which the savages took a fancy, such as hats, coats, shoes, &c.”

By the articles of capitulation, it was stipulated that the wounded should be taken good care of, the officers be permitted to retain their side-arms, private property be respected, and the militia immediately parolled. How characteristic of a savage and faithless enemy was this shameful violation of honour and good faith.

Major Chapin and his corps were detained under guard at the head of Lake Ontario, and no attention paid to the article of capitulation, which provided for their being parolled. On the



12th inst. they were ordered down the lake to Kingston ; for which place they were embarked in two boats, accompanied by a guard of 15 men, under the command of a lieutenant. Thirteen of the men, with the lieutenant, were stationed in the forward boat with Major Chapin and the other officers, while the remaining two, (a sergeant and one man,) took the direction of the other boat, which contained the soldiers. An agreement had been entered into, previous to their departure, of seizing the first opportunity that offered to regain their liberty, which they determined to effect, or die in the attempt. When they were within about 12 miles of York, the boat which was filled with the prisoners, was rowed by them along side the other, under pretence of taking something to drink. The signal being given, they sprang upon the guard, who little expected such a manœuvre, and in a short time disarmed them, and gained possession of the boats. They immediately altered their course from Kingston to Fort Niagara, and after rowing hard for most of the night, and escaping with difficulty from one of the enemy's schooners, which gave them chase, arrived in safety with their prisoners, at the American garrison.

The following extract of a private letter from Fort George, made its appearance in a public newspaper, in the first week in August :

“ A large boat arrived two days since from Little York, containing one lieutenant, and 8 of his Britannic majesty's militia, captured by 8 of our men, (3 regulars, and 5 militia,) taken at Beaver Dams. The lieutenant and his party were conducting them to Kingston—our men rose on the English, and brought them in here. Another boat, with 14 of Boerstler's men, has just come in from York, bringing with them their centinel, and one other person.”

It would be an unpardonable injustice to the brave Chapin not to give his own report of this heroic escape. The following is a copy of his letter to Gen. Dearborn, dated Fort George, June 13th, 1813.

“ Sir—I have just arrived from my confinement in Canada, with my men, without our parole. Our return happened in the following manner: I received orders at Burlington heights on Monday morning, to go to Kingston—We set off accordingly under the care of a guard of 16 men. I had with me 28 men: We all went on very quietly till 4 o'clock in the afternoon, at which time I gave a signal to attack the guard, which were stationed in the following order: A sergeant and one man in the boat with my men, a lieutenant and 13 men in the boat with me and two officers. At the signal, my men ran along side of the boat I was in. Lieut. Showers ordered them to fall astern. I ordered them on board—at which time the officer attempted to draw his sword. I seized him by the neck and threw him on his back—two of his men drew their bayonets upon me—I immediately seized both bayonets at the same instant, and threw them on the top of the officer, and kept all down together; at the same moment, my men seized the guard, and wrested from them their arms—we then, having possession of the arms, changed our course, and arrived here this morning half after two o'clock, all safe. We have brought two boats with us.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CYRENUS CHAPIN.”

On the 11th July, 1813, 250 British regulars crossed the Niagara, below Black Rock, moved up towards that place, and marched far above the navy-yard, before any alarm was given. The detached militia, being surprised, retreated up the beach, and left the enemy in quiet possession

of the village, who proceeded to burn the sailors' barracks and block-houses at the great battery; they then proceeded to the batteries, dismounted and spiked three 12 pounders, and took away three field-pieces, and one 12 pounder; they took from the store-house a quantity of whiskey, salt, flour, pork, &c. which, with four citizens, they took across the river. At the first moment of the alarm, Gen. Porter left Black Rock for Buffalo; at which place he assembled a body of volunteers, and a few regulars, which with 100 militia, and 25 Indians, formed a junction about a mile from the enemy. After being formed with the militia and Indians on the flanks, and the volunteers and regulars in the centre, they attacked, and the enemy, after a contest of 20 minutes, retreated in the utmost confusion, to the beach, embarked in several of our boats, and pulled for the opposite shore; all the boats got off without injury, except the last, which suffered severely from our fire, and from appearance, nearly all the men in her were killed and wounded. The British lost 8 killed on the field, besides those killed and wounded in the boats. The Americans took 15 prisoners, who were sent to Batavia. On the American side, sergeant Hartman, Jonathan Thompson, and Joseph Wright, were killed, and 5 wounded, two of which were Indians.

On the 7th July, the enemy attacked a guard about a mile and a half from Fort George, when Lieut. Eldridge, with 39 men, who volunteered under him, went to relieve them; but, in his zeal to execute the order, he unexpectedly found himself surrounded in the wood by Indians, who opened a deadly fire upon his little corps, which cut down 18—a few fled, and the remainder were

taken by the Indians, and stripped, scalped, and mangled in a horrid manner. Only 9 of the corps escaped.

During the night of the 4th July, a party of the enemy, consisting, according to the British account, of 41 men, but known to exceed that number, passed over in boats from Chippawa to Fort Schlosser, which was guarded by only 12 men, whom the enemy made prisoners, together with three of the citizens; and also succeeded in carrying off some flour, salt pork, whiskey, &c.; one brass six pounder, a few stands of arms, some ball-cartridges, &c. with which they hastily retired. The enemy being reinforced, returned on the succeeding evening to complete the plundering, which his hurry and fears compelled him to leave unfinished during his first visit, but observing a guard, he retreated without attempting to land.

A body of the enemy, consisting of about 200 men, besides Indians, attacked the pickets at Fort George, on the 17th July, but were bravely repulsed, after a contest of one hour. Although this affair was not otherwise of much consequence, it was in a degree so, inasmuch as it gave a full opportunity of testing the conduct of the American officers engaged; as it was fought in detachments. Col. Scott had command of the troops on this occasion. Gen. Boyd, in his official report, highly extolled the activity and bravery of those engaged, particularly Majors Cummins, and Armstrong; Captains Vanduersen, Madison, Birdsall, and Towson.

A declaration of war, of which the following is a copy, was issued by the Six Nations of New-York Indians, immediately after the invasion of the state by the British.



## DECLARATION OF WAR.

BY THE SIX NATIONS OF INDIANS.

We, the Chiefs and Councillors of the Six Nations of Indians, residing in the state of New-York, do hereby proclaim to all the War Chiefs and Warriors of the Six Nations. that WAR is declared on our part, against the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada.

Therefore, we do hereby command and advise all the War Chiefs to call forth immediately the Warriors under them, and put them in motion, to protect their rights and liberties, which our brethren, the Americans, are now defending.

(Signed) *By the Grand Councillors:*

Major-General Dearborn had been for some time in a state of ill health. On the 15th July he was superseded in the command of the army on the Niagara frontier; and was succeeded by Gen. Boyd, the second in command. On this occasion, the general received a very affectionate address from General Boyd, and the other officers serving at Fort George. As, however, the cause of the general's dismissal was the object of various conjecture, the following extract from the general order, issued on the occasion, will give to the reader all the satisfaction in our power to communicate.

"The major-general commanding, having received orders from the secretary of war, to retire from the command of this army until his health shall be re-established, and until further orders—the command devolves on Brig. Gen. Boyd. Were the major-general permitted to consult his own feelings, no consideration could induce him to leave the army at this important crisis; but the first duty of a soldier is to obey his superiors."

About the 15th or 16th of July, two private armed boats, each carrying a 6 or 8 pounder,

and 50 men, sailed from Sackett's Harbour, to *cruise in the St. Lawrence* ! On Monday, the 19th, they fell in with a gun-boat, carrying a 6 pound carronade, convoying 15 of the enemy's batteaux, captured them without the loss of a man, and brought them into Cranberry Creek, about 49 miles above Ogdensburgh. The batteaux had on board 230 barrels pork, 300 bags pilot bread, ammunition, &c. bound from Montreal to Kingston. On Tuesday morning, 3 of the enemy's gun-boats, with 250 soldiers from Prescott, arrived off the creek, and landed their men. The privateersmen had hardly time to construct a breast-work of their *bags of pilot bread*, before they were attacked by 200 of the enemy; and strange to tell, after an obstinate engagement, in which from 40 to 60 of the enemy were killed, his force retreated precipitately to their boats, except 15, who took to the woods, and were pursued. The American loss was trifling, though it is not specified. Sixty-seven British prisoners, captured in the batteaux and gun-boat, arrived at Watertown on Tuesday evening.

The employment of Indians by the enemy rendered it absolutely necessary to attach the friendly Indians to the army of the U. States. On this occasion there was an opportunity of proving that the savage can abstain from those barbarous acts, which the enemy must have encouraged, or certainly did not attempt to prevent.

A body of volunteers and Indians, under command of Major Chapin, had a skirmish with the enemy, near Fort George, on the 17th August, in which the latter was defeated, and completely routed. The American Indians captured 12 of the British Indians, and four whites. The

Indians, in a council held with them previous to this affair, covenanted not to scalp or murder. Their bravery in battle was as conspicuous as their humanity to the vanquished; no insult was offered even to the dead.

At day break on the 24th August, the enemy, with his whole force, commanded by Sir George Prevost, drove in all the American pickets at Fort George. A skirmish ensued in the village, with little effect, when the enemy retired, leaving 15 of his men dead on the field, and a few prisoners, including a captain of the 49th. The Americans lost two men killed, and a few wounded.

The pain of being compelled to relate the barbarity of a faithless enemy, on almost every occasion where he had power, is pleasingly mitigated by the contrast which the acts of American soldiers and seamen produce. Among the many, too numerous for recollection or detail, the following will be read with satisfaction:

“ On the 21st September, a company of volunteers, principally of the village of Buffaloe, embarked for Sugar Loaf, (about 14 miles from Fort Erie,) under command of Major Chapin, with an intention to surprise and capture a British guard, commanded by Col. Warren. The colonel had anticipated the attack, and had withdrawn himself and guard from the lake some miles, into the interior of the country.— The party took several prisoners, who were immediately paroled; and 34 barrels of flour, and a bale of blankets, all of which was the property of government. There were several hundred barrels of flour at the mills, but there being no proof of its being public property, it was not taken. The conduct of Major Chapin, in all his

incursions into the enemy's territory, has been strictly honourable ; carefully distinguishing between friends and enemies ; justly discriminating between public and private property.<sup>22</sup>

The American fleet, under command of Commodore Chauncey, went out of the inner harbour of Sackett's Harbour, the 19th July, 1813, and sailed soon afterward. The fleet stretched over for the enemy's shore, and from thence stood up the lake, and arrived off Niagara, in the evening of the 27th July. Com. Chauncey being informed that the enemy had a considerable deposit of provisions and stores at Burlington-bay, had determined to attempt their destruction. Having taken on board 250 infantry, the fleet proceeded to the head of the lake, but owing to light winds and calms, did not arrive to an anchorage before the evening of the 29th.—Two parties were sent on shore, who took some of the inhabitants, from whom they learned, that the enemy was lately reinforced, and that he had from 600 to 800 regulars. The troops were, however, landed the next morning, together with some marines and sailors ; but, on reconnoitering the enemy's position, he was found posted upon a peninsula of high ground, strongly intrenched, and his camp defended by about 8 pieces of cannon. It was judged inexpedient to attack him with a force scarcely half his numbers, and without artillery. The men were re-embarked in the course of the afternoon ; and the fleet weighed in the evening, and stood for York, in the harbour of which place it anchored about 3 o'clock, P. M. On the 31st, the schooners sailed into the upper harbour ; the marines and soldiers, under the command of Colonel Scott, landed without op-



position, (upwards of 400 men of the enemy having left York for the head of the lake, two days previous to the disembarkation.) Several hundred barrels of flour and provisions were found in the public store-house ; also 5 pieces of cannon, 11 boats, and a quantity of shot, shells, and other stores ; all of which were either destroyed or taken away—a few prisoners were taken. The troops were re-embarked on the 1st August, having previously burned the barracks, and public store-houses—the expedition arrived at Niagara on the 3d.

On the 7th August, at day-light, Commodore Chauncey discovered the enemy, consisting of 2 ships, 2 brigs, and 2 large schooners, on Lake Ontario. He immediately weighed anchor, and manœuvred to gain the wind. Both fleets continued to manœuvre for several hours, at a distance from each other of about 5 or 6 miles, Commodore Chauncey endeavouring in vain to bring the enemy to action. Toward night it became quite calm, during which time the Commodore endeavoured to reach the enemy by sweeps, but without success. Wind, during the night, was very squally. At day-light, on the 8th, discovered that 2 of the schooners, the *Hamilton* and *Scourge*, mounting together 19 guns, had foundered, and every soul on board them, except 16, perished. This accident gave the enemy a decided advantage, yet the Commodore offered him battle, which was declined.—In the afternoon the wind fell away, and the Commodore again endeavoured to reach the enemy by means of his sweeps, but was again unsuccessful. During the afternoon, the enemy, taking advantage of a wind which sprang up, and brought him to windward, endeavoured to

cut off the American schooner, but they were able to come into their station before he could reach them. Night coming on, and the weather, as on the former night, squally, the Commodore, to guard against further accident, as well as to afford some rest to his men, who had been 40 hours at quarters, ran in towards Niagara, and anchored outside the bar. Here he received on board, and distributed in different vessels, 150 men, to aid in boarding, in case he could close with the enemy.

Soon after day-light on the 9th, he discovered the enemy, weighed anchor, and stood after him. The winds were light and variable, and before noon quite calm; at 5 P. M. the wind sprang up, pursued the probable course of the enemy during the night. In the morning of the 10th, discovered the enemy and gave him chase; before the wind changed, brought the enemy to windward, by which he was again enabled to avoid an action. Both fleets continued manœuvring until 11, when a firing commenced between both fleets. The wind favoured the enemy, and enabled him to effect one purpose of all his long and eowardly manœuvring, by separating two vessels from the remainder of the squadron, and capturing the Growler and Julia.

On the morning of the 11th, the Commodore got sight of the enemy, but he still refused battle, notwithstanding his increased advantage, by the capture of 2 vessels, and a wind favourable to him. A gale coming on, Commodore Chauncey returned to Sackett's Harbour, to obtain provisions, of which his ships was nearly destitute.

On the 7th September, the enemy's squadron, under command of Captain Yeo, was discovered

close in with the Niagara river. Commodore Chauncey's fleet immediately weighed anchor, and prepared for action. The enemy sailed to the northward; The Commodore in pursuit.— The pursuit was continued all round the lake, until the morning of the 12th, when the enemy succeeded in getting into Amherst-bay. During the chase, there was a running fight, off Genessee river, which continued three and a half hours; the enemy suffered much; the Americans did not loose a man.

Commodore Chauncey continued to blockade the enemy in Amherst-bay, until the 17th September, when a heavy wind from the westward favoured his escape into Kingston; and the American fleet returned to Sackett's Harbour. After a few hours delay at Sackett's Harbour, Commodore Chauncey sailed again for Niagara, where he arrived on the 24th. On the 19th he saw the enemy off the False Ducks, but took no notice of him, in hope that he might follow the Commodore up the lake.

On the 26th September, Commodore Chauncey learned that the enemy's fleet was in York-bay; he prepared to weigh, but was prevented from getting out of the river before the evening of the 27th. On the 28th the enemy was discovered under way in York-bay. The Americans formed a line for battle, and run down for the enemy's centre. The enemy endeavoured to avoid an action. At 10 minutes past 12, the enemy, in order to save his two rear vessels, was compelled to tack in succession, beginning at his van, when he hoisted his colours, and commenced a fire on Commodore Chauncey's flagship, the General Pike, for the purpose of covering his rear, and attacking the American

rear as he passed to leeward. By a happy manœuvre, Commodore Chauncey defeated this part of the adversary's plan, when the latter bore away. The American ships, however, closed so near as to bring their guns to bear; and in 20 minutes, the main and mizen top-masts, and main yard of the Wolf were shot away. This ship immediately put before the wind, and set all sail upon his main mast; and, by keeping dead before the wind, was enabled to escape. The chase was continued until near 3 P. M. during which time the Commodore's ship kept within point blank shot of the enemy, and sustained the whole of his fire, during the chase.

At 15 minutes past 3, the Commodore was obliged to give up the chase: his ship was making water so fast, that it required all his pumps to keep her clear; and others of his vessels were much damaged. The enemy's fleet was within six miles of the head of the lake, where, owing to the stiffness of the gale, both fleets might go ashore at a place in possession of the enemy.—The Commodore, therefore, thought proper to proceed to Niagara. The General Pike suffered a considerable loss of men, among whom were 22 killed or wounded, by the bursting of a gun. On the 1st October, the Commodore sailed again from Niagara, taking under convoy several boats with troops for Sackett's Harbour. Having convoyed these as far as it was deemed necessary for their safety, he left them to proceed coastwise; and he bent his course in search of the enemy.

On the 2d October, at 10 A. M. the enemy was discovered steering a course for Niagara. Commodore Chauncey ordered a chase—the enemy avoided an engagement as usual, and was



far ahead by sun down. On the morning of the 3d, the enemy was discovered at anchor close in with the land, between Twelve and Twenty-mile creeks, but made sail, on discovering the American fleet. The chase continued all day: the enemy could barely be made out from the mast-head by sun-down. At day-light, on the 4th, he could not be seen. The Commodore, suspecting that the enemy, availing himself of a very dark night, had shaped his course for Kingston, directed his course for the Ducks.— At 3 P. M. the Commodore discovered 7 sail near the false Ducks, gave chase, and at 4 o'clock, discovered them to be sloops and schooners. At 5 P. M. gained considerably on them, which the enemy perceiving, he took the men out of a slow sailing gun-boat, and then burned her to prevent her capture. At sun-down, when opposite the Real Ducks, the Hamilton, (late Growler,) Confiance, (late Julia,) and Mary-Anne, struck their colours, and were taken possession off. The Drummond soon after struck to the Sylph; and on the following morning, the Sylph took possession of the Lady Goree. But one of the enemy's vessels, a small schooner, escaped, and she owed her safety to the darkness of the night.

Commodore Chauncey proceeded to Sackett's Harbour with his prizes. The captured vessels mounted from 1 to 3 guns each, and were returning with troops from the head of the lake. The following are the number and description of troops of the enemy made prisoners on this occasion viz. 1 major, 1 captain, 3 subalterns, 1 surgeon, 10 sergeants, 4 drummers, 202 rank and file, of De Watteville's regiment; 1 lieutenant, 2 master's mates, 35 seamen and ma-

rines, of the royal navy; and 4 sailing-masters of the provincial navy. The enemy's squadron was seen going into Kingston the same evening.

It was cause of much surprise that the British were permitted to obtain an ascendancy as to actual force on the lakes Champlain, Ontario, and Erie; if they did not make all the use of their numerical superiority which they ought to have made, it must remain for themselves to explain. Commodore Yeo was brave, and an experienced officer. His apparently cowardly conduct on Lake Ontario, must have been the result of his private instructions. It must be confessed, that this surmise is ill supported when contrasted with the policy of the British commanders on lakes Champlain and Erie. On both these lakes, the enemy reckoned on success, as what must certainly result from his superior tactics, supported by a superior force. He did try his strength and talents against the Yankees, and with his ships and invincibility, handed over to the Yankees, all the laurels which were gleaned from every other naval power.—The American war, on the sea and the lakes, has disgraced, degraded, and humbled the proud mistress of the deep, and raised the aspiring and noble minded American to a height, which every nation in the world, except England, has witnessed with a pleasure or enthusiasm, that speaks a language to the Briton, not equivocal, but galling, dreadful, ominous.

For some time, the enemy assumed, and in fact, held the command of Lake Erie. His fleet was commanded by an officer of experience, who tauntingly boasted of his superiority.—Commodore Oliver H. Perry was appointed to take command of the American fleet. The fol-

lowing extract of a letter from him to the secretary of the navy, was dated 4th August, and announced his intention of meeting the enemy.

“ I have great pleasure in informing you, that I have succeeded in getting over the bar, the U. S. vessels, the Lawrence, Niagara, Caledonia, Ariel, Scorpion, Somers, Tigress, and Porcupine. The enemy have been in sight all day, and are now about 4 leagues from us. We shall sail in pursuit of them at 3 to-morrow morning.”

The following official letters from the Commodore, are proofs of the modesty, as the result of the engagement was, of the undaunted heroism and naval skill of this great commander.

*Copy of a letter from Commodore Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.*

U. S. brig Niagara, off the Western  
Sisters, Head of Lake Erie, Sept.  
10, 1813, 4 P. M.

SIR,—It has pleased the Almighty to give to the arms of the United States, a signal victory over their enemies on this lake. The British squadron, consisting of 2 ships, 2 brigs, 1 schooner, and 1 sloop, have this moment surrendered to the force under my command, after a sharp conflict. I have the honour to be, &c.

O. H. PERRY.

Hon. W. Jones, Secretary of the Navy,

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*Copy of a letter from Com. Perry to the Secretary of the Navy.*

U. S. schooner Ariel, Put-in-Bay, 13th  
Sept. 1813.

SIR,—In my last I informed you that we had captured the enemy's fleet on this lake. I have now the honour to give you the most important particulars of the action. On the morning of the 10th inst. at sun-rise they were discovered from Put-in-Bay.

when I lay at anchor with the squadron under my command. We got under way, the wind light at S. W. and stood for them. At 10 A. M. the wind hauled to S. E. and brought us to windward; formed the line and bore up. At 15 minutes before 12, the enemy commenced firing; at 5 minutes before 12, the action commenced on our part. Finding their fire very destructive, owing to their long guns, and its being mostly directed at the Lawrence, I made sail, and directed the other vessels to follow, for the purpose of closing with the enemy. Every brace and bowline being soon shot away, she became unmanageable, notwithstanding the great exertions of the sailing-master. In this situation she sustained the action upwards of two hours, within canister distance, until every gun was rendered useless, and the greater part of her crew either killed or wounded. Finding she could no longer annoy the enemy, I left her in charge of Lieut. Yarnell, who, I was convinced from the bravery already displayed by him, would do what would comport with the honour of the flag. At half past 2, the wind springing up, Capt. Elliot was enabled to bring his vessel, the Niagara, gallantly into close action; I immediately went on board of her, when he anticipated my wish, by volunteering to bring the schooners, which had been kept astern by the lightness of the wind, into close action. It was with unspeakable pain, that I saw, soon after I got on board the Niagara, the flag of the Lawrence come down, although I was perfectly sensible, that she had been defended to the last, and that to have continued to make a show of resistance, would have been a wanton sacrifice of the remains of her brave crew. But the enemy was not able to take possession of her, and circumstances soon permitted her flag again to be hoisted. At 45 minutes past 2, the signal was made for "close action." The Niagara being very little injured, I determined to pass through the enemy's line, bore up and passed ahead of their two ships and a brig.



giving a raking fire to them from the starboard guns, and to a large schooner and sloop, from the larboard side, at half pistol-shot distance. The smaller vessels at this time, having got within grape and canister distance, under the direction of Capt. Elliot, and keeping up a well directed fire, the two ships, a brig, and a schooner, surrendered, a schooner and sloop making a vain attempt to escape."

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*Extract of a letter from Commodore Perry.*

U. S. schooner Ariel, Put-in-Bay, 13th  
September, 1813.

"I also beg your instructions respecting the wounded. I am satisfied, Sir, that whatever steps I might take, governed by humanity, would meet your approbation. Under this impression, I have taken upon myself to promise Capt. Barclay, who is very *dangerously* wounded, that he shall be landed as near Lake Ontario as possible, and I had no doubt you would allow me to parole him."

The following is the statement of the respective forces of the contending fleets.

*Statement of the force of the British squadron.*

Ship Detroit,	19 guns—1 on pivot, and 2 howitzers.
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Queen Charlotte,	17 do. 1 do.
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Schr. Lady Prevost,	13 do. 1 do.
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Brig Hunter,	10 do.
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Sloop Little Belt,	3 do.
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Schr. Chippawa,	1 do. and 2 swivels.
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63 guns.

*Note.*—The Detroit was a new ship, very strongly built, and mounted long 24's, 18's, and 12's.

*Statement of the force of the United States squadron.*

Brig Lawrence,	20 guns.
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Niagara,	20 do.
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Caledonia,	3 do.
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Schr. Ariel,	4 do. (1 burst early in action.)
Scorpion,	2 do.
Somers,	2 do. and 2 swivels.
Sloop Trippe,	1 do.
Schr. Tigress,	1 do.
Porcupine,	1 do.

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The loss, on the part of the Americans, was as follows:

	<i>Killed.</i>	<i>Wounded.</i>	<i>Missing.</i>
Lawrence,	22	61	83
Niagara,	2	25	27
Caledonia,		3	3
Somers,		2	2
Ariel,	1	3	4
Trippe,		2	2
Scorpion,	2		2
	<hr/> 27	<hr/> 96	<hr/> 123

Two days previous to the action, 57 men unfit for duty in the small vessels.

While giving the Commodore's own account of this action, we cannot omit his laconic letter to General Harrison. It has been called, by a writer, "Cesarean brevity." Cæsar said "veni, vidi, vici," but Perry did not conquer merely by showing himself to an enemy, who, reckoning on his own known superiority of force, and presumed superiority in tactics, calculated, with great certainty, on conquering the Yankees.—The battle was hard fought, and the loss on both sides very great. Perry might have said, "veni vici," or as he would translate the words of the Roman general—"we met the enemy, and they are ours;" but the addition of "vidi" might

favour the opinion that he won the battle from the timidity or inactivity of the enemy, which would be depriving the brave Perry and his crew of more than half their merit.

“ U. S. brig Niagara, off the Western Sister, head of Lake Erie, Sept. 10th, 1813, 4 P. M.

“ Dear General—We have met the enemy—and they are ours. Two ships, two brigs, one schooner, and one sloop. Yours, with great respect and esteem,  
O. H. PERRY.”

Hitherto we have seen the enemy beaten ship to ship, but now we were to witness them fleet to fleet; and a more decisive or splendid victory was never achieved. “ From the best information,” says the heroic Perry, in a letter to General Harrison, “ we have more prisoners than we have men on board our vessels.”

Compared with this, all former naval victories lose their splendour; even the great Nelson, were he alive, must rank below Perry.—Nelson never captured an *entire* fleet; Perry has, and that with a fleet inferior in size, weight of metal, and number of men.

The British fleet was commanded by Com. Barclay, an officer of great merit, and much loved by those under his command. At a public dinner given to this officer at Terrebone, in Canada, he gave a toast, which, while it proves the candour of the Commodore who gave it, is an indisputable proof of the merit of him whose name was the subject of it. The toast was in the following words: “ Commodore Perry, the gallant and generous enemy.”

Soon after the victory on Lake Erie, the President of the United States appointed Oliver H. Perry to the rank of captain in the navy.

The Commodore was presented with the freedom of the cities of New-York and Albany.

The thanks of Congress were voted to the Commodore, his officers, seamen and marines; and medals were presented to him and his officers.

The thanks of the Senate of Pennsylvania, with medals, were also voted to the Commodore, and those brave men who served under him.

Among the many testimonials of the gratitude of his fellow-citizens, too numerous to detail, the following particulars of a present from the citizens of Boston, deserves to be enumerated, viz.

“ A *Salver*, of an oblong square shape, 23 inches long, by 16 1-2 wide, with a bright gadroon edge.

Two *Ice Pails*, or decanter *coolers*, barrel shape, hooped round with a bright gadroon edge at top and bottom.

Two *Pitchers*, of a large size, Chinese shape, with tops, and bright gadroons at top and bottom.

Two dozen *Tumblers*, plain barrel shape, with gadroons at bottom.

*Wine Glass coolers*, each to hold a dozen glasses, oblong square shape, standing on feet, with balls ornamented with a bright gadroon at bottom, and narrow rim at top, impressed with an oak leaf.

A *Coffee Pot*, *Tea Pot*, *Sugar Basin*, *Cream Ewer*, *Tea Cady*, and *Slop Bowl*—all of oblong shapes, standing on feet, with balls at the corners, ornamented with deep borders, impressed with roses and leaves, and with bright gadroons at top and bottom.

The large pieces bear the following inscription :

SEPTEMBER 10, 1813,

*Signalized our first triumph in squadron—A very superior British force on Lake Erie, was entirely subdued by*

COM. O. H. PERRY;



*Whose gallantry in action is equalled only by his  
humanity in victory.*

PRESENTED

*In honour of the Victor, by the CITIZENS OF  
BOSTON."*

The capture of the British fleet removed the chief object to the capture of Malden; and General Harrison made dispositions to avail himself of it. Boats were collected, and troops assembled. Governor Shelby arrived on the 17th September, at the mouth of Portage river, with about 4000 volunteers. Gen. M'Arthur joined the army in three days after with his brigade from Fort Meigs. On the 21st, the embarkation of troops commenced. Put-in-bay Island was the place of rendezvous. Commodore Perry's fleet, including the captured vessels, were engaged in protecting and assisting the men and boats, as well as in conveying stores, baggage, &c. The army again embarked on board the fleet and boats at Put-in-bay, on the 25th, and arrived the same evening at the Eastern Sister, a small island about sixteen miles from Malden. Here the expedition was detained some time by bad weather, during which time, a reconnoissance of the enemy's coast was made by Gen. Harrison, and Com. Perry; a despatch was also sent to apprise Col. Johnson of their movements, who, with his mounted rangers, was to co-operate in the reduction of Malden.

On the 27th, the army embarked at the Eastern Sister, and landed near Malden, in excellent order. The enemy having previously evacuated the town, it was entered by the Americans without opposition.

It has been remarked in the early part of this history, that, previous to the surrender of De-

troit to the enemy, the Indians, with the exception of a few who had joined the enemy, remained inactive, watching, with their usual sagacity, until they could discover on what side victory was likely to perch. True to their own insidious and cowardly policy, they went over to the victorious Britons; but no sooner was the effect of treason wiped off by the courage of patriots, than the savage withdrew from his employers, and sought peace from those, against whom he had so long raised the tomahawk.—By an official letter, written by Gen. M'Arthur to the secretary of war, and dated at Detroit, subsequent to the retreat of the British, it appears that five nations of Indians, viz. the Ottawas, Chippawas, Pattewattemies, Miamies, and Kickapoos, have sued for peace. By an agreement entered into between them and Gen. M'Arthur, on the part of the United States, “they have agreed to take hold of the same tomahawk with us, (the people of the United States,) and to strike all who are, or may be, enemies to the United States, whether British or Indians.”

After the evacuation of Malden by the enemy, Gen. Harrison pursued the British, although he (Harrison,) had very few horses. “scarcely a sufficiency to mount the general officers,” whilst the retreating enemy had upwards of 1000 horses. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, the Americans pursued their object with so much diligence, that they came up with the enemy. The force destined for this service, consisted of about 140 regulars, Johnson's mounted regiment, (Kentuckians,) three companies of Col. Ball's legion, and such of Governor Shelby's volunteers as were fit for a rapid march; the whole amounting to about 3,500 men. During the pur-

suit, which was attended with severe privations, (the whole army subsisting for several days upon fresh beef, without bread or salt, and the infantry being without tents;) a considerable quantity of arms were taken, being deserted by the enemy, and much more destroyed; these consisted chiefly of muskets taken, or rather given to them by the capitulation of Detroit. Two 24 pounders, with their carriages, besides a large quantity of balls and shells, and two gun-boats, and several batteaux, loaded with provisions and ammunition, also fell into the hands of Gen. Harrison. The destruction of these were attempted by the retreating enemy, but were saved by the activity of the pursuers. Near a place called M'Gregor's Mills, on one of the branches of the river Thames, the Indians were placed in great numbers, to dispute the passage of the river. Upon the arrival of the American advanced guard, a heavy fire was commenced on it by the Indians, on the opposite side of the river. Gen. Harrison, expecting the attack would be supported by the whole force of the enemy, drew up his entire army in order of battle, and brought up two 6 pounders to cover a party which was ordered to repair a bridge, partially destroyed by the Indians. The Indians, as usual, when not early successful, fled, after suffering a considerable loss. The American loss was 2 killed, and 3 or 4 wounded.

On the 5th October, General Harrison came up with the enemy; the result cannot be given more satisfactorily than will be found in the following extract from his letter to the secretary of war.

"From the place where our army was last halted, to the Moravian towns, a distance of about three

and a half miles, the road passes through a beech forest, without any clearing, and for the first two miles, near to the bank of the river. At from two to three hundred yards from the river, a swamp extends parallel to it, throughout the whole distance. The intermediate ground is dry, and although the trees are tolerably thick, it is in many places clear of underbrush. Across this strip of land, its left *appayed* upon the river, supported by artillery placed in the wood, their right in the swamp, covered by the whole of their Indian force, the British troops were drawn up.

The troops at my disposal consisted of about 120 regulars, of the 27th regiment, 5 brigades of Kentucky volunteer militia infantry, under his excellency Governor Shelby, averaging less than five hundred men, and Col. Johnson's regiment of mounted infantry, making in the whole an aggregate something above 3000. No disposition of an army opposed to an Indian force, can be safe, unless it is secured on the flanks, and in the rear. I had, therefore, no difficulty in arranging the infantry conformably to my general order of battle. Gen. Trotter's brigade of 500 men, formed the front line, his right upon the road, and his left upon the swamp. Gen. King's brigade, as a second line, 150 yards in the rear of Trotter's and Chiles's brigade, as a corps of reserve, in the rear of it. These three brigades formed the command of Maj. Gen. Henry; the whole of Gen. Desha's division, consisting of two brigades, were formed *en potence* upon the left of Trotter.

While I was engaged in forming the infantry, I had directed Col. Johnson's regiment, which was still in front, to be formed in two lines opposite to the enemy, and, upon the advance of the infantry, to take ground to the left, and forming upon that flank, to endeavour to turn the right of the Indians. A moment's reflection, however, convinced me, that from the thickness of the woods, and swampiness of the ground, they would be unable to do any thing on



horseback, and there was no time to dismount them and place their horses in security ; I, therefore, determined to refuse my left to the Indians, and to break the British lines at once by a charge of the mounted infantry ; the measure was not sanctioned by any thing that I had seen or heard of, but I was fully convinced, that it would succeed. The American backwoodsmen ride better in the woods than any other people. A musket or rifle is no impediment to them, being accustomed to carry them on horseback from their earliest youth. I was persuaded, too, that the enemy would be quite unprepared for the shock, and that they could not resist it. Conformably to this idea, I directed the regiment to be drawn up in close column, with its right at the distance of fifty yards from the road, (that it might be, in some measure, protected by the trees from the artillery,) its left upon the swamp, and to charge at full speed as soon as the enemy delivered their fire. The few regular troops of the 27th regiment, under their colonel, (Paul,) occupied, in column of sections of four, the small space between the road and the river, for the purpose of seizing the enemy's artillery ; and some ten or twelve friendly Indians were directed to move under the bank. The *crotchet* formed by the front line and General Desha's division was an important point. At that place, the venerable governor of Kentucky was posted, who, at the age of sixty-six, preserves all the vigor of youth, the ardent zeal which distinguished him in the revolutionary war, and the undaunted bravery which he manifested at King's Mountain. With my aids-de-camp, the acting assistant adj. general, Capt. Butler, my gallant friend Com. Perry, who did me the honour to serve as my volunteer aid-de-camp, and Brig. Gen. Cass, who having no command, tendered me his assistance, I placed myself at the head of the front line of infantry, to direct the movements of the cavalry, and give them the necessary support. The army had moved on in this order but

a short distance, when the mounted men received the fire of the British line, and were ordered to charge; the horses in the front of the column recoiled from the fire; another was given by the enemy, and our column, at length getting in motion, broke through the enemy with irresistible force. In one minute, the contest in front was over; the British officers, seeing no hopes of reducing their disordered ranks to order, and our mounted men wheeling upon them, and pouring in a destructive fire, immediately surrendered. It is certain that 3 only of our troops were wounded in this charge. Upon the left, however, the contest was more severe with the Indians. Colonel Johnson, who commanded on that flank of his regiment, received a most galling fire from them; which was returned with great effect. The Indians, still further to the right, advanced, and fell in with our front line of infantry near its junction with Desha's division, and, for a moment, made an impression on it. His excellency Governor Shelby, however, brought up a regiment to its support, and the enemy, receiving a severe fire in front, and a part of Johnson's regiment having gained their rear, retreated with precipitation."

The active Indian Chief Tecumseh, after evincing great resolution, and continuing to fight although being badly wounded, fell, while directing a deadly aim at Col. Johnson. The invincible courage of the colonel, and his great presence of mind, saved his own valuable life, and put an end to that of an irreconcilable foe. While the sanguinary Tecumseh was aiming at the colonel, the latter, although wounded in several parts, and much exhausted, discharged his pistol with great coolness, and brought the ferocious savage to the earth, where he was found dead. The American loss amounted to 7 killed and 22 wounded; the British loss was 12 killed,

22 wounded, and 601 regulars taken prisoners. The Indians, from the best information, suffered severely, 33 of them were found dead on the field. Six brass pieces of artillery, and two iron 24 pounders, and a large quantity of small arms, fell into the hands of the victors. Every American will be pleased to learn, that among the field pieces, were three, which were taken from the British during the revolutionary war, bearing the motto "*surrendered by Burgoyne at Saratoga*," and lately surrendered to the enemy by General Hull. Major-General Proctor, who commanded the enemy's forces, escaped with difficulty, accompanied by about 50 persons, consisting chiefly of officers of the army.

After this total defeat of the enemy, the militia were discharged, and Gen. Harrison, with his disposable regular force, accompanied by Com. Perry, arrived at Presque-isle, on the 22d October, from Detroit; from whence he sailed for Black Rock, with a view to co-operate with the army there, or at Sackett's Harbour. By this excursion, he, in the short space of less than a month, recovered the territory of Michigan, punished and forced into peace, the numerous hordes of savages, captured a British regular army, brought security to the inhabitants of the north western frontier of the United States, and marched triumphantly through a great portion of the Upper Province of Canada. Gen. Cass was left in the provisional government of Michigan territory.

The instances of successful bravery, which had hitherto been frequent, were in a manner, eclipsed by the following:

Major George Croghan, in the 22d year of his age, was left, by Gen. Harrison, in command

of 160 men, and with one six-pounder, at Fort Stephenson, (Lower Sandusky.)

In the course of two weeks, there had been no fewer than ten rencounters; in one of which, the enemy carried a block-house at Fort Madison on the 10th July, from which they attacked the fort, but without success. Four men were butchered in the block-house.

It would appear, that it was Gen. Harrison's intention, not to expose the small force at Fort Stephenson, to be cut off by an enemy very superior in numbers; and the major was, for a short time, superseded in the command, in consequence of disobeying an order to burn and evacuate the fort; but, on his arrival at headquarters of the general, he gave such satisfactory evidence of his ability to maintain the post, that he was immediately sent back with directions to resume the command.

On the evening of the 1st August, the British and Indians, who had come up the Sandusky river, from the bay, commenced from their boats a heavy cannonading upon the fort, and threw in a great number of shells from their bomb batteries. The enemy continued his operations without success until the evening of the 2d, when, after throwing a great number of balls from a six-pounder, at the north-west angle of the fort, for the purpose of making a breach, a column, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Short, advanced to the point on which the artillery had been played, with intention of storming, but the judicious management of Major Croghan, foiled the enemy in his attempt. The ditch, which surrounded the works, was about eight feet wide, and of equal depth—this the enemy had to enter before they could ap-



proach the pickets: (through the top of each, a bayonet was driven in a horizontal direction,) while in this situation, the six-pounder, which was masked in a block-house, and a ravine adjacent, poured upon the storming column a tremendous shower of musket balls, which did terrible execution, and so confounded the assailants, that Lieut. Colonel Short, who had previously ordered his men to "scale the pickets, and show the damned Yankee rascals no quarters," exhibited a white handkerchief as a signal of distress, evincing his disposition to have quarters given him, after he had proclaimed that the garrison should be massacred. It was, however, too late—the next discharge proved fatal—he fell—and Lieut. Gordon of the 29th regiment, died by his side. This was near two hours before sun-set. The firing from the block-house was principally directed at the enemy who had taken refuge in the direction of the ravine—the slaughter there was immense, and *Gen. Proctor*, who commanded in person, ordered the allied enemy to retreat to their boats. The greater part of the night was occupied in carrying off the dead and wounded—from the number of trails discovered in the grass, it is evident that no less than 50 of the dead were dragged away. About 30 killed, including the two officers mentioned above, were left in the ditch and ravine—and 30 prisoners, 18 severely wounded, which *Gen. Proctor*, in his hurry, left behind, were afterwards brought into the fort. It is a fact, worthy of observation that not one Indian was found among the dead although it is known that from 3 to 400 were present, under the celebrated Captain Elliot.—The number of British regulars was 490, from

the 49th regiment. Major Croghan had but one man killed, and 7 slightly wounded.

The British loss, by their own confession, amounted to 91, exclusive of Indians. There was, however, sufficient evidence to justify the belief, that it was considerably more.

When Colonel Elliot demanded the surrender of the fort, he stated, that, unless his demand was promptly acceded to, *a general massacre would ensue.* And when Colonel Short, who commanded the *British regulars*, destined to storm the fort, had formed his troops in a line parallel with the ditch, he ordered them, in the hearing of our men, to leap the ditch, cut down the pickets, and give the Americans no quarters. This barbarous order, which none but a savage could give, was not, however, permitted to go unpunished; for the words were hardly out of the mouth of the British commander, when the retributive justice of Providence arrested him; and the wretch was obliged to sue for that mercy which he had determined not to extend to others. It may be observed here, in honour of the character of the American soldiers, that although their little band were well aware of the fate which the enemy had prepared for them, yet, they were no sooner subdued, than the Americans forgot the crimes of the enemy in their sufferings; and the wounded in the ditch, whose groans and constant calls for water, were heard by the men in the fort, were supplied with that necessary article, on the night succeeding the discomfiture of the enemy, by the generosity of the Americans, who, with considerable hazard, ventured to risk their lives in order to alleviate the sufferings of the very men who had plotted their entire destruction.

The brevet rank of lieutenant-colonel has been conferred by the President of the United States on Major Croghan.

The ladies of Chillietho have presented him with a sword, and a flattering address.

On the 3d of June, a detachment of the enemy, with a number of gun-boats, from Isle-Aux-Noix, succeeded in capturing the U. S. armed vessels, Growler and Eagle, on Lake Champlain, after a well contested defence by the brave crews of these vessels, against a very superior force. The consequence was, that the enemy gained a very decided superiority on the lake.

The enemy reckoned on success in his future operations in this quarter, not only from his own superior force, but also from the unprepared state of the Americans. Com. Maedonough had not a sufficient number of seamen to man his sloops, and would be highly reprehensible had he been defeated in an attempt to recover the ascendancy on the lake. There were no troops stationed at Plattsburgh. While things were thus situated, the British flotilla, consisting of 2 sloops of war, (the Eagle and Growler,) lately captured, 3 gun-boats, and 44 batteaux, loaded with troops, sailors, and marines, about 1400 in all, under the command of Col. Murray, crossed the line at Champlain, on the 30th July, and entered Plattsburgh on the following day.

On the first information of the approach of the enemy, Gen. Mooers gave orders for calling out the militia; and when the enemy arrived, about 300 from Plattsburgh and the neighbouring towns, had collected, who retired back a few miles, where they were joined by the residue of the regiment from the county of Essex.

Although the officers who had the command of the expedition, assured the civil authority of the village, that private property should be respected, and that citizens not in arms, should remain unmolested—yet these promises were no sooner made than violated ; the enemy, not satisfied with destroying the public buildings, such as the block-house, arsenal, armory, hospital, and military cantenments, wantonly burned two store houses, belonging to Peter Saily, esq. and one belonging to Major N. Z. Platt—took, and carried off several thousand dollars worth of hardware, belonging to Frothinham & Co. of Boston, which had been stored with Mr. Saily. The destruction of private property was not limited to such as they could eat, drink, and carry away, but furniture, which could not be of any use to the plunderers, was wantonly destroyed—tables, bureaus, clocks, desks, cupboards, and crockery, were cut and broken to pieces, and thrown about the houses—books and writings were torn to pieces, and scattered about the streets.

The various successes of the enemy, during their short visit to Plattsburgh, are described by several respectable authorities, to be enormous. cruel, and wanton, in a high degree.—“ Well was it,” says one of the witnesses of the scene. “ for our wives, sisters, and daughters, that they remembered the excesses at Hampton, and trusted not their persons to the mercy of the invaders.”

On Sunday, the faithless ruffians, the unprincipled invaders, re-embarked, and stood out of the bay. They took a Durham boat, loaded with flour, and 8 sloops, one of which they burned.



On their return to Point-au-Roche, the crew of one of the boats landed, and part went to the house of a Mr. Williams; they found his wife out of the house; two of them went in, to keep the husband in check, while the third attempted to gratify his brutal desires upon her. Her husband, hearing her screams, came to her assistance, and in the struggle, the woman discharged the villain's gun, disengaged the bayonet therefrom, which she stuck twice into his own back, and wounded him pretty severely; the other two fled, and Mr. Williams and his wife bound the rascal, and sent him in; the inhabitants on Point-au-Roche, took the skiff in which they came, and the other soldiers.

The United States' troops at Burlington, under command of Maj. Gen. Hampton, consisted of about 4000 men. They were under arms, waiting the approach of the enemy, and would, undoubtedly, have defended their post against any attack they could have made on it.

On the 3d August, the enemy appeared before Burlington, and fired into the town for some time, but no considerable damage was done. In the evening of the same day, a detachment proceeded to Shelburne, 4 or 5 miles south of Burlington, where they seized a sloop, with about 400 barrels of flour. The limited force under Gen. Hampton, would not justify his detaching any part of his troops from the protection of property and stores under his immediate care: the marauding enemy wisely retired before reinforcements could have arrived.

It was the intention of the U. S. government, to make an attack on Montreal, before the winter would put an end to the campaign. The effecting of this object would give to the United

States the entire command of Upper Canada, completely subdue the Indians, regain the confidence of the Canadians, which was suspended by the sudden retreat, and subsequent conduct of Gen. Hull, and make an impression on the enemy, which must incline him to peace, on just and honourable terms. A large force was ordered to Sackett's Harbour; and Gen. Wilkinson, who had the chief command, was ordered to use his utmost effort, and the greatest possible expedition in carrying the design into effect.

On the 1st Nov. 1813, Gen. Wilkinson's army began its movements from Grenadier-Island, down the St. Lawrence. They had not proceeded far, before the advanced corps, under General Brown, was attacked by the enemy, from the shore. On returning the fire, the enemy dispersed, and the army advanced.

The movements of the army under General Hampton, were intended to facilitate those of Gen. Wilkinson; and both armies were finally to unite, previous to the attack on Montreal.

The army under Gen. Hampton, moved from Chateaugay on the 21st October, and arrived at its position at Sears's, on the 22d—thus having, with incredible labour, surmounted 24 miles of the most difficult part of the route, through the extensive and almost impassable forest, which bounds the Canada line. After 4 or 5 miles of open country, another forest of 6 or 7 miles was opposed to their march, (which was on the north-west side of the river.) This the enemy had made almost an entire fortification, by crossing it with felled trees, interspersed with breast-works and ditches: through these obstructions, the enemy was to be assailed—a part of their forces, consisting of light troops and

Indians, were posted in these defences, while the main body, commanded by Sir George Prevost, in person, was lodged in the rear, fortified with batteries and cannon. The hardships the American army had endured, the continual rains that were falling, and the obstructions in front, would have damped the ardour of troops less disposed to disregard all sufferings and perils in pursuit of glory, and in the service of their country—but on the contrary, partaking largely of the spirit which inspired their commander in chief, every individual seemed uncommonly emulous of the enterprise.

It was believed that the obstructions could not be forced by the main body, without great loss. To avoid this, the light companies, and a regiment of infantry, were detached at dark, on the evening of the 25th, to proceed on the opposite (S. E.) side of the river, to a fording place, below the enemy's advance, which they were to cross, and attack the enemy in flank and rear, while the main body should attack in front; and thus destroy the enemy's defence at a blow. Owing to the darkness of the night, incessant rain, and the difficulties of the wood, the guide who conducted this detachment having lost his way, the party did not arrive at the proposed point. The battalion of the 10th regiment, consisting of about 200 men, were, at the appointed time, (3 o'clock, P. M. on the 26th) at the entrance of the obstructed wood, waiting the attack of the troops on the enemy's flank, which was to be the signal for them to advance. At this moment, the enemy commenced a fire on this battalion, who promptly returned it, then charged and drove the enemy from their lurking places, dispersing them entirely, and

silencing their fire ; in this the Americans had only one man killed, and some 3 or 4 wounded. At this moment, the firing commenced on the opposite side of the river, with some of the light companies, and it was here, and not in either of the main divisions of the army, that any serious loss, or the least confusion occurred ; the enemy was, however, soon dispersed in this quarter also. After waiting some time for the renewal of the enemy's attack, the main body of the American army fell back slowly, and in good order, the enemy not daring to show themselves, or in the least to interrupt their march, to a position 4 miles from the place of action. Here they were shortly after joined by the detached party, who had had some further skirmishing with the enemy of no great account. At this place they remained several days, without receiving the least molestation. The only failure of the expedition, is attributable to the miscarriage of the guide, which disconcerted a plan, that otherwise must have led to the capture of a considerable portion of the enemy's force, and the complete destruction of his plan of defence.

The American actual total loss, in killed, wounded, and missing, did not exceed 36 men. The whole American force engaged, did not exceed 225 men on the side where the greatest force of the enemy were opposed—the other regiments did not arrive until the moment when the enemy were retiring, and were only formed, and in line, but took no part in the engagement.

Colonel Purdy, who commanded the detachment which fought this battle, in his report to Gen. Wilkinson, is very free in his censure of



Gen. Hampton. "Incredible," says the colonel, "as it may appear. Gen. Hampton entrusted nearly one half of his army, and those his best troops, to the guidance of men, each of whom repeatedly assured him, that they were not acquainted with the country, and were not competent to direct such an expedition."

"Towards sun-down," says the colonel, "I sent Gen. Hampton a request, that a regiment might be ordered down to cover my landing on the opposite side of the river; but, judge my surprise, on receiving intelligence that he had retreated with the second brigade, nearly three miles."

"Never, to my knowledge," says the colonel, in another part of his despatch, "during our march into Canada, and while we remained at the Four Corners, a term of 26 days, did Gen. Hampton ever send off a scouting or reconnoitring party, (except in one or two cases at Spears's, in Canada, when he detached a few dragoons for this duty,) nor did he, from the time we commenced our march from Cumberland Head, to our arrival at Plattsburgh, ever order a front flank, or rear guard, to be kept up, though a great part of the time we were in situations which evidently required it. True it is, these guards were occasionally sent out, not, however, by his order, but by the orders of the officers commanding brigades."

The colonel winds up his charges against Gen. Hampton, by saying. "Such has been the general's conduct, on some occasions, that I have, in common with other officers, been induced to believe, that he was under the influence of a too free use of spiritous liquors."

The official account of this action, by the

British General Baynes, is very different from the above, but so improbable and wide from the truth, that it may, with much safety, be averred, that it did not meet belief from a single reader of any party.

As soon as General Wilkinson passed Kingston, and that it became evident, he must have designed the taking of Montreal, the troops which were stationed for the defence of Kingston, were employed in annoying and delaying the progress of the American army. "The corps of the enemy," says Gen. Wilkinson, in his official report to the secretary of war, "from Kingston, which followed me, hung on my rear, and in concert with a heavy galley, and a few gun-boats, seemed determined to retard my progress. I was strongly tempted to halt, turn about, and put an end to his teasing; but alas! I was confined to my bed; Maj. Gen. Lewis was too ill for any active exertions; and above all, I did not dare suffer myself to be diverted a single day from the prosecution of the views of government."

On the 10th, about noon, Gen. Brown, who was with his command in front, and some distance below the main body of the army, was engaged with the enemy, at the moment when a strong party of the enemy advanced on the rear of Gen. Wilkinson, with several galleys and gun-boats; from whence they commenced a fire, but were soon compelled to retire from the fire of a battery of 18 pounders, planted on the occasion. Wilkinson's army came to for the night, a short distance above the Longue Saut; it was intended to pass it that day, but the delays occasioned by dis-embarking, and re-embarking heavy guns, prevented the army from

reaching the Saut as early as expected; and the pilots would not dare enter the Saut, (a rapid of 8 miles,) at a late hour. At 10 o'clock the following day, Gen. Wilkinson received advice, that Gen. Brown, having forced the enemy, would arrive at the foot of the Saut early in the day. Orders were immediately given for the flotilla to sail, at which moment, the enemy's gun-boats appeared, and began to throw shells among the American flotilla. General Wilkinson, calculating from reports and appearances, that the enemy only looked for a favourable opportunity for attack, had determined to anticipate him. "Directions," says General Wilkinson, "were accordingly sent, by that distinguished officer, Col. Swift of the engineers, to Brig. Gen. Boyd, to throw the detachments of his command, assigned to him in the order of the preceding day, and composed of men of his own. Covington's and Swartwout's brigades, into 3 columns, to march upon the enemy, out-flank him if possible, and take his artillery. The action soon after commenced with the advanced body of the enemy, and became extremely sharp and galling, and, with occasional pauses, ~~not~~ sustained with great vivacity, in open space, and fair combat, for upwards of two and a half hours—the adverse lines alternately yielding and advancing. It is impossible to say, with accuracy, what was our number on the field, because it consisted of indefinite detachments taken from the boats, to render safe the passage of the Saut. Gens. Covington and Swartwout, voluntarily took part in the action, at the head of detachments, from their respective brigades, and exhibited the same courage that was displayed by Brig. Gen. Boyd, who hap-

pened to be the senior officer on the ground.— Our force engaged might have reached 16 or 1700 men, but actually did not exceed 1800 ; that of the enemy was estimated from 1200 to 2,000, but did not probably amount to more than 15 or 1600—consisting, as I am informed, of detachments from the 49th, 84th, and 104th regiments of the line, with three companies of the Voltigeur and Glengary corps, and the militia of the country, who are not included in the estimate.”

This battle (the battle of Williamsburgh,) was contested with a courage and obstinacy, that perhaps had no parallel. To witness undisciplined troops, and inexperienced officers, substituting courage and patriotism in place of military knowledge ; and thus opposed, for 3 hours, to a regular army, was a sight on which the guardian angel of America, must have looked with exulting gratification. Amidst a shower of musketry and *Shrapnel*-shells, the brave Americans, insensible to fear, dashed into the ranks of the enemy, whose position was strengthened by ravines and thickets. The enemy retired for more than a mile before the resolute and repeated charges. The brigade, first engaged, had expended its ammunition, and was compelled to retire, in order to procure a supply. This movement so disconcerted the line, as to render it expedient for another brigade to retire. The artillery, owing to the nature of the ground, could not be brought up until after this event. The fire from the artillery was very destructive to the enemy ; but when directed to retire, in passing a deep ravine, one piece was lost, but not until after the fall of its gal-



lant commander, Lieutenant Smith, and most of his men.

The whole of the line was re-formed on the borders of those woods from which the enemy had first been driven, when night coming on, and the storm continuing and the object of attack having been fully accomplished, the troops were directed to return to the ground near the flotilla, which movement was executed in good order, and without any interruption from the enemy.

General Covington received a mortal wound, while leading his men to a successful charge.— Colonel Preston was severely wounded, while fighting at the head of his regiment. Major Cummings received a severe wound, while making a charge, but yet continued to fight until exhausted by the loss of blood. General Boyd has taken particular notice, in his official despatch, of the merits of Brig. Gen. Swartwout; Colonels Coles, Walbank, Johnson, Pierce, Gaines, Ripley, and Aspinwall; Majors Morgan, Crafton, Gardner, Beebe and Chambers; Lieutenants Henry, Whiting, and Worth. The general concludes his report in the following words; “ Permit me now to add, sir, that though the result of this action was not so brilliant and decisive as I could have wished, and the first stages of it seemed to promise, yet, when it is recollected, that the troops had been long exposed to hard privations and fatigues, to inclement storms, from which they could have no shelter; that the enemy were superior to us in numbers, and greatly superior in position, and supported by 7 or 8 heavy gun-boats; that the action being unexpected, was necessarily commenced, without much concert; that we were, by una-

voidable circumstances, long deprived of our artillery; and that the action was warmly and obstinately contested for more than three hours, during which there were but a few short cessations of musketry and cannon; when all these circumstances are recollected, perhaps this day may be thought to have added some reputation to the American arms. And if, on this occasion, you shall believe me to have done my duty, and accomplished any one of your purposes, I shall be satisfied."

After this engagement, the troops proceeded down the river without further annoyance from the enemy or their gun-boats. while the dragoons, with five pieces of artillery, marched down the Canada shore without molestation.—The next morning the flotilla passed through the Saut, and joined Gen. Brown, near Cornwall.

On the arrival of General Wilkinson with General Brown, he learned that General Hampton, instead of meeting him near that place, was marching towards Lake Champlain. The letter of General Hampton, announcing this unexpected movement, together with a copy of that to which it was an answer, were immediately submitted to a council of war, who unanimously gave it, as their opinion, "that the attack on Montreal should be abandoned for the present season, and the army near Cornwall should be immediately crossed to the American shore, for taking up winter quarters, and that this place afforded an eligible position for such quarters."

Thus ended the campaign, and an expedition which seemed, in every respect, well calculated to effect its object.

General Wilkinson, who attributed the failure of this expedition to "the extraordinary, unexampled, and it appears, unwarrantable conduct of Major-General Hampton, in refusing to join this army, with a division of 4000 men, under his command, agreeable to orders," in a letter to the secretary of war, of 15th November, writes—

"It is a fact, for which I am authorised to pledge myself, on the most confidential authority, that on the 4th of the present month, the British garrison of Montreal, consisted solely of 400 marines, and 200 sailors, which had been sent up from Quebec. We have, with the provision here, and that left at Chateaugay, about 40 day's subsistence, to which I shall add 30 more."

In a letter of the 17th November, Gen. Wilkinson writes—

"After what has passed between us, you can perhaps, conceive my amazement and chagrin, at the conduct of Major-General Hampton. The game was in view, and, had he performed the junction directed, would have been ours in eight days. But he chose to recede in order to co-operate, and my dawning hopes, and the hopes and honour of the army, were blasted."

The loss at the battle of Williamsburgh, in Upper Canada, consisted of 102 killed, 339 wounded, including officers. The enemy's loss was represented, by authority worthy of credit, to exceed 500 in killed and wounded.

Statement of the strength of the enemy, in the action of the 11th November, 1813, on Kesler's field, in Williamsburgh, in Upper Canada—founded on the separate examination of a number of British prisoners taken on the field of battle.

Of the 89th regiment,	760
49th do.	450
Voltigeur's,	270
Glengary's,	80 one company.
Of the 100th,	40 a detachment from Prescott.
Canadian Fencibles,	220
Indians,	40
Incorporated Militia,	300
	<hr/>
	2160

Four pieces of mounted artillery, and 7 gun-boats—  
one mounting a 24 pounder.

After the troops went into winter quarters, a placard was distributed in the American camp, of which the following is a copy.

*“ To the American Army at Salmon River.*

NOTICE.—All American soldiers who are willing to quit the unnatural war in which they are at present engaged, will receive, at the British out-posts, the arrears due to them by the American government, to the extent of five month's pay No man shall be required to serve against his own country.”

This produced no desertions, nor any other effect, except contempt of the wretched author of the placard.

A very handsome affair was executed the 12th October, by a party of men, under command of Col. Isaac Clark. The Colonel, with his party, left Chazy landing, so as to arrive at Massasquoi-bay at an early hour in the morning. He arrived unperceived within a few rods of the enemy, who were drawn up in order of battle, by their commander, Major Powel. The enemy commenced a fire on the left flank, but in ten minutes after the first attack, they laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves prisoners of war.



Col. Clark despatched Capt. Finch, with his company, to reconnoitre the course of a body of about 200 men, who were supposed to be advancing against him. Capt. Finch proceeded with such promptness and ability, as to surprise and capture the advanced guard, consisting of cavalry, except one man, who fled, and, giving the information, the enemy escaped.

The prisoners were then put on board boats, and sent to Burlington.

The whole American force engaged was 102. The number of prisoners taken was 101; the killed and wounded of the enemy, 23.

The success of this expedition was materially aided by a knowledge of the country, into which he marched, which a commander of an expedition should always be full master of.

The following gallant action will be best detailed by giving the official report which was made, in the following words:

*“ Charleston, (S. C.) August 21, 1813.*

Sir—I have the honour to inform you, that the privateer schooner Decatur, of this port, arrived here yesterday, with H. B. M. schooner Dominico, her prize. She was captured on the 5th inst. after a most gallant and desperate action of one hour, and carried by boarding, having all her officers killed or wounded, except one midshipman. The Dominico mounts 15 guns, one a 32 pounder, on a pivot, and had a complement of 83 men at the commencement of the action, 60 of whom were killed or wounded. She was one of the best equipped and manned vessels of her class I have ever seen. The Decatur mounts 7 guns, and had a complement of 103 men at the commencement of the action, nineteen of whom were killed and wounded. I have the honour to be, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

JOHN H. DENT.

Hon. Wm. Jones, Secretary of the Navy.”

During the combat, which lasted an hour, the king's packet ship, *Princess Charlotte*, remained a silent spectator of the scene, and as soon as the vessels were disengaged from each other, she tacked about, and stood to the southward. She had sailed from St. Thomas, bound to England, under convoy, to a certain latitude, of the Dominico.

The loss on board the *Dominico* consisted of 13 killed and 47 wounded; five of whom mortally.

On the 14th of this month, (August, 1813.) the U. S. brig *Argus* was captured by the British sloop of war *Pelican*. The *Argus* sailed from New-York, the 21st June, for France, and arrived at Le Orient, after a passage of 23 days, where Mr. Crawford, minister from the United States, to the court of France, landed. From Le Orient, the *Argus* sailed, on a cruise, in the British channel, where she fell in with the British sloop *Pelican*, fitted out for the purpose of taking the *Argus*. The action was well supported by the Americans for 40 minutes, when the enemy succeeded in capturing the *Argus*, by boarding. The number of killed and wounded on board the American will best explain the bravery with which the ship was defended, against a vessel, which the British editors acknowledged to be superior in size and armament. Killed, on board the *Argus*, 2 midshipmen, 4 seamen; wounded, mortally, Capt. Wm. H. Allen, commander, 1 carpenter, 1 boatswain's mate, 1 seaman; wounded, severely, Lieut. Watson, 1 quarter-master, 3 seamen, 1 carpenter's mate; wounded, slightly, 8; total, 24.

When Captain Allen was removing out of the *Argus*, to be conveyed to the hospital, he exclaimed—"God bless you, my lads, we shall never meet again."

The *Argus*, previous to her capture, had taken and destroyed 21 sail of British vessels.

The following statement will show the force of the two vessels.

*Argus*—16 2½ pound carronades, 2 long 9's—burthen 298 tons, 94 men fit for duty, 5 sick, the rest absent in prizes.

*Pelican*—22 32 pound carronades, 2 long 9's, and 2 swivels—burthen 53½ tons, 179 men, 11 of them volunteers for the occasion, from ships at Cork.

On the 5th September, the U. S. brig *Enterprize*, William Burrows, commander, fell in with H. B. M. brig *Boxer*, Capt. Blythe. The British brig was discovered at anchor, in shore, at 5 o'clock, A. M. Penmaquid bearing north. 8 miles distance. After some manœuvring, the brigs approached at a quarter past 3 P. M. within half pistol shot of each other, when the action commenced. At 20 minutes past 3, the brave commander of the *Enterprize* fell, mortally wounded; while lying on the deck, he refused to be carried below, raised his head, and requested "*that the flag might never be struck.*" Thus lay the intrepid Burrows, until he learned the result of the action, when, clasping his hands, he said, "*I die contented.*" He was then taken below, and died in 8 hours afterwards.—At 4 P. M. the enemy ceased firing, and cried out for quarters; saying, *that as their colours were nailed, they could not haul them down*;—a sufficient proof that it was resolved never to yield to a Yankee crew. Some of the crew of the *Boxer* have acknowledged, that she left port with a complement of 115 picked men, for the purpose of taking the *Enterprize*; that six men were put on board a prize, and six ashore on the

island of Manhiggen, leaving on board, when the action commenced, 104; which account agrees with the muster-book, found on board of the *Boxer*. The number of killed and wounded on board the *Boxer*, could not be ascertained with certainty, as many of the former were thrown overboard. The senior officer of the *Enterprize* states it, from the best information he could obtain, at between 20 and 30 killed, and 14 wounded. Capt. Blythe, the commander of the *Boxer*, was among the killed. The following extract of a letter from Capt. Hull to Com. Bainbridge, is too important to be omitted.

"I yesterday visited the two brigs, and was astonished to see the difference of injury sustained in the action. The *Enterprize* has but one 18 pound shot in her hull, one in her main-mast, and one in her fore-mast; her sails are much cut with grape shot, and there are a great number of grape lodged in her sides, but no injury done by them. The *Boxer* has eighteen or twenty 18 pound shot in her hull, most of them at the water's edge: several stands of 18 pound grape stick in her side, and such a quantity of small grape, that I did not undertake to count them. Her masts, sails and spars, are literally cut to pieces, several of her guns dismounted and unfit for service; her top-gallant fore-castle nearly taken off by the shot; her boats cut to pieces, and her quarters injured in proportion. To give you an idea of the quantity of shot about her, I inform you, that I counted in her main-mast alone, three 18 pound shot holes, 18 large grape shot holes 16 musket ball holes, and a large number of smaller shot holes. and without counting above the cat harpins. We find it impossible to get at the number killed; no papers are found by which we can ascertain it—I, however, counted upwards of 90 hammocks, which were in her netting with beds in



them, besides several beds without hammocks ;— she has excellent accommodations for all her officers below in state rooms, so that I have no doubt that she had 100 men on board. We know that she has several of the Rattler's men, and a quantity of wads was taken out of the Rattler, loaded with 4 large grape shot, with a small hole in the centre, to put in a cartridge, that the inside of the wad may take fire when it leaves the gun. In short, she is in every respect completely fitted : and her accommodations exceed any thing I have seen in a vessel of her class."

If there is an American who would deny the honour due, on this occasion, to the American tars, let him read the following from a London paper, and yield, however unwillingly, the palm to the first nation in the world, the hitherto despised citizens of the United States. The following is a copy of the extract alluded to.

" Among the *American* news, which is to be found in the papers just received from that country, it pains us to find a full confirmation of the loss of his majesty's brig *Boxer*, which has added another laurel to the naval honours of the United States. The vessel by which she was captured, is represented (falsely, we believe,) as of only equal force with herself; but what we regret to perceive stated, and trust will be found much exaggerated, is that the *Boxer* was literally cut to pieces, in sails, rigging, spars, and hull; whilst the *Enterprize* (her antagonist,) was in a situation to commence a similar action immediately afterwards. The fact seems to be but too clearly established, that the Americans have some superior mode of firing; and we cannot be too anxiously employed in discovering to what circumstances that superiority is owing. The *Boxer* was certainly not lost for want of heroism. The British captain nailed his colours to the mast, and happily did not live to see them struck. Both com-

manders died in the action, which appears to have been of the most desperate kind; and both were buried at the same time, in the port to which the prize was carried."

The loss on board the Enterprize, was—1 ordinary seaman killed; 1 commander, (Burrows,) 1 midshipman. (K. Waters,) 1 carpenter's mate, mortally wounded; 3 quarter-masters, 1 boatswain's mate, 5 seamen, 1 marine, wounded.—Total 14.

The remains of the gallant commanders, (Burrows and Blythe,) were buried in Portland, with military honours. Capt. Blythe, of the Boxer, was one of the pall-bearers at the funeral honours paid to the late Captain Lawrence, at Halifax.

The following memorial was caused to be inscribed on the monument of the gallant Lieut. BURROWS, of Portland, by Mr. M. L. DAVIS, of New-York:

BENEATH THIS STONE

*Moulders*

THE BODY OF

**WILLIAM BURROWS,**

*Late Commander of the*

**UNITED STATES' BRIG ENTERPRIZE,**

Who was mortally wounded on the 5th of September, 1813, in an action, which contributed to increase the fame of American valour by capturing his

**BRIT. MAJESTY'S BRIG BOXER,**

after a severe contest of 45 minutes.

A passing stranger has erected this monument of respect to the manes of a patriot, who in the hour of peril, obeyed the loud summons of an injured country, and who gallantly met, fought and conquered the foeman.

The U. S. brig Enterprize, was formerly a schooner, and is the same vessel with which Lieut. Sterrett, in August, 1801, captured with-

*out the loss of a man*, the Tripolitan ship of war *Tripoli*, of 14 guns, and 85 men, 50 of whom were killed and wounded.

By a resolution of Congress, the President of the United States was requested to present to the nearest male relative of Lieut. William Burrows, and to Lieut. R. M'Call, of the brig *Enterprize*, a gold medal; and a silver medal to each of the commissioned officers of said vessel.

The President of the United States, having considered the *Boxer* as equal in force to the *Enterprize*, has ordered her to be delivered up for the benefit of the captors.

Com. Rodgers arrived at Newport, the 26th September, in the frigate *President*, having sailed from Boston, on his third cruise, in company with the *Congress*, the 30th of April preceding. After parting company with the *Congress*, on the 8th May, in lon. 60 W. lat. 39, 30, N. he shaped his course to the southward of the Grand Bank, with the view to intercept the enemy's West-India trade: being disappointed in this quarter, he pursued a route to the northward, on a parallel with the eastern edge of the Grand Bank, so as to cross the tracks of the West-India, Halifax, Quebec, and St. John's trade. Not being successful, after reaching the latitude of 48 N. he steered towards the Azores, off which he continued until the 6th June, without meeting an enemy's vessel. From hence, he crowded sail to the N. E. in search of an enemy's convoy, which he learned was seen sailing from the West-Indies, to England. Although disappointed in falling in with the convoy, he nevertheless made 4 captures, the 9th and 13th of June. This brought him so far to the north and east, that he re-

solved on going into the North Sea. He put into North Bergen on the 27th June, to procure provisions and water, not having seen any enemy's vessels since the 13th. At Bergen he could procure only water, and departed from thence the 2d July, stretching over towards the Orkney-islands; and from thence towards the North Cape, in search of a British convoy, that was to sail from Archangel, of which he obtained information from 2 vessels, which he captured on the 13th and 18th July. In this object he was disappointed, by the appearance of 2 of the enemy's ships of war. (a line of battle ship, and a frigate,) off the North Cape, on the 19th July. The President was chased by these 2 ships for 80 hours, but effected her escape. The Commodore next proceeded to a station where he might intercept the trade passing into and out of the Irish channel. In this position he made 3 captures, between the 25th July, and 1st August; when, fearing the great superior force of the enemy in that quarter, he changed his ground; and, after taking a circuit round Ireland, and getting into the latitude of Cape Clear, he steered for the Banks of Newfoundland, near which he made 2 captures — From the Banks, he steered for the United States; and, being short of provisions, was compelled to make the first port, into which he could safely enter. He brought in with him H. B. M. schr. High Flyer, a tender to Admiral Warren, captured on the 23d July. He took 271 prisoners: 216 of whom were sent home in carts, and 55 brought home in the President.

The movements, on the Niagara frontier, began at this time to wear a very serious aspect.



The following address was circulated in the western district of the state of New-York.

**" TO THE PATRIOTS OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT.**

" The period being at hand which is to decide the fate of the province of Upper Canada, and the command of the Niagara frontier having devolved on me, I think proper to invite the old and young patriots of the Western District to join my brigade in defence of their country and rights—any number not exceeding 1000, will be accepted and organized immediately on their arrival at Lewiston, and officered by the choice of their men. As the movements of an army require secrecy, objects in view cannot be particularly developed; but those who feel disposed to distinguish themselves, and render services to their country, may be assured that something efficient and decisive will be done. The term of service will be 2 months, if not sooner discharged: and every thing shall be done to render their situations as comfortable as possible. I wish none to volunteer who may have any constitutional objections to cross the Niagara river: 1400 of my brigade have already volunteered to cross the river, and go wherever they may be required; and 600 of them are now doing duty at Fort George. I flatter myself that no other consideration need be urged, than love of country, to excite the patriotism of the yeomanry of the Western District.

Given at head-quarters, Lewiston, October 2d, 1813.

**GEORGE M'CLURE, Brig. Gen.**  
Commanding Niagara Frontier."

A considerable number of patriotic volunteers flocked, on this occasion, to the standard of Gen. M'Clure.

The following is an extract of the general's letter to Governor Tompkins, of the state of

New-York, dated Fort George, 6th October, 1813.

"We have commenced offensive operations against the enemy. About 500 militia volunteers, and about 150 Indians, commanded by Col. Chapin, attacked the picket guard of the enemy about a mile and an half from Fort George, and drove them in upon the main body, when the enemy opened a fire from several field pieces. Our men retired in good order into the fort, with the loss of one man killed and two or three wounded. The enemy's loss was 7 killed, many wounded, and 4 prisoners.

"In a short time, the enemy appeared in considerable force within 500 yards of the fort, at the edge of the woods; Chapin again sallied out with about 300 men, and some Indians, commenced a brisk fire on the whole of the enemy's line, and drove them half a mile—but, perceiving, by the movements of the enemy, that they would outflank us, I ordered 200 to reinforce him, and in two detachments to attack the enemy's flanks. We succeeded in driving the enemy into the woods, when night coming on, put an end to the conflict. Our loss was trifling; I have not ascertained that of the enemy. Colonel Chapin is a brave man. Every officer and soldier did his duty."

Col. Chapin, in a private letter, to a friend in Buffaloe, thus details the brush he had with the enemy.

"While at dinner, I received information of the British army being in the town of Newark. I immediately rallied a party of 100 men, and commenced a fire upon them, who returned it with much warmth—we kept the ground till we were reinforced by 60 Indians, and 100 militia. With this force, we compelled the enemy to retreat, and pursued them one and a half miles, when we received a reinforcement of 100 men; with this force, we drove them half a mile further, where they covered

themselves in a ravine, and opened a most tremendous fire of musketry upon us. After an hour and a half hard fighting, we drove them from the ravine, back to the batteries—it being now nearly dark, we returned in good order.

“From some deserters, and a prisoner we took, we learn that we had contended with the whole British army, consisting of 1100 men, with the great Gen. Vincent at their head; and that we killed 32. Our loss was 4, killed and wounded.”

Major Chapin has recently been brevetted lieutenant-colonel, in the United States' army.

Gen. M·Clure, with the New-York militia, volunteers and Indians, succeeded in driving the British army from the vicinity of Fort George, and pursued them as far as Twelve-mile-creek. Col. Scott, who commanded at Fort George, having informed Gen. M·Clure, that he was under orders to leave that place with the regulars, the general was compelled to abandon his design, and return to Fort George.

It was General M·Clure's wish, by the aid of the regular troops, to clear Upper Canada above Kingston, of the British armies, to establish a temporary government, secure the friendship, and if necessary, the co-operation of the inhabitants, and compel the Indians to separate themselves from the enemy, or accompany them in their retreat. That this could be effected, can scarcely be doubted, but it was necessarily abandoned in favour of a design which originated with the general government, and which, had it succeeded, would have been more important. The regular troops were principally drawn from the Niagara frontier, to co-operate with Gen. Wilkinson in his intended attack on Montreal. Gen. Harrison's army was also ordered to Sackett's

Harbour. Gen. M'Clure endeavoured to influence Gen. Harrison to aid him in attacking the enemy; but the instructions from the general government were positive; and Com. Chauncey had arrived with his fleet to remove the troops to Sackett's Harbour. The force remaining with Gen. M'Clure, was barely sufficient to defend Fort George, and entirely inadequate to offensive operations; and this force, which the general stated to be "ungovernable," would soon be reduced by the expiration of their term of service.

The militia returned to their homes, with the exception of a few that were induced to remain beyond the term of their enlistment. The general finding his force reduced to a number inadequate to defend his post, and the enemy advanced within a few miles of him, he called a council of officers, and put to them the question, "Is the fort tenable with the present number of men?" They were unanimous in the opinion, that it was not tenable. The arms, ammunition, and public stores, were immediately sent across the river, and, as a measure deemed necessary to the safety of the troops, the town of Newark was burned. "This act, (said Gen. M'Clure,) however distressing to the inhabitants, and my feelings, was by *order of the Secretary of War*, and I believe, at the same time, proper." The inhabitants had twelve hours notice to remove their effects and such as chose to cross the river, were provided with all the necessaries of life.

Capt. Leonard was left in command at Fort Niagara, with 150 regulars; Colonel Grieves, with 20 men, and 2 pieces of artillery, was at Lewiston; Major Mallory, with 40 Canadian militia, were stationed at Schlosser; and the



General went to Buffalo, to provide for the safety of that place, and Black Rock.

From Buffalo, General M'Clure issued an address to the inhabitants of the counties of Niagara, Genessee, and Chatague, apprizing them of the menaced invasion of that frontier, and calling on them to repair to Lewiston, Schlosser, and Buffalo, for the purpose of defending their country and home against a barbarous enemy. This was too late to produce the desired effect.

On the morning of the 19th December, about 4 o'clock, the enemy, consisting of regulars, militia, and Indians, to the number, by the most probable account, of 1500 men, crossed the Niagara river at Five-mile meadow, and advanced against Fort Niagara, which they completely surprised, entering it while the men were nearly all asleep, and killing, without mercy or discrimination, those who came in their way. It will be recollected that an attack on this place was expected, and that Captain Leonard, who commanded, had directions accordingly; yet General M'Clure observes, in his official despatch, "I am induced to think that the disaster is not attributable to any *want of troops*, but to *gross neglect in the commanding officer of the fort*. Captain Leonard, in not preparing, being ready, and looking out for the expected attack." It appears by another letter from Gen. M'Clure, "that Captain Leonard was not in the fort at the time of the attack, having left it at a late hour the preceding evening."

On the same morning on which Niagara was taken, a detachment of militia stationed at Lewiston, under command of Major Bennet, was attacked by a strong party of the enemy,

but the major and his few men cut their way with great bravery through several hundreds of savages and others, by whom they were surrounded. The villages of Youngstown, Lewiston, Manchester, the Indian Tuscarora village, and all the intervening houses, were burned, and many of the inhabitants inhumanly butchered, without respect to age or sex, by savages, headed by British Officers *painted*. Major Malory, who was stationed at Schlosser, with about 40 Canadian militia, boldly advanced to Lewiston heights, and compelled the enemy to fall back to the foot of the mountain: for two days the major continued to resist the advance of the enemy, disputing every inch of ground to the Tautawanty creek.

Major-General Hall, on hearing the dangerous and exposed state of the frontier, hastened to Batavia; and, on the morning of the 23d December, at the request of General M'Clure, took the chief command of the men then assembling to repel the enemy. There was a great deficiency of ammunition and arms. With what could be procured, the general commenced his march towards Lewiston on the 25th, having under his command 150 infantry, under Lieut. Col. Lawrence, supported by one company of cavalry, under Captain Marvin, and in the expectation to join a corps of militia, said to be 200 strong, under Lieut. Col. Atcheson, which was stationed 15 miles east from Lewiston, with instructions, if possible, to join the main force at Buffalo. On the morning of the 26th, General Hall arrived at Buffalo, where he found a considerable body of irregular troops of various descriptions. General M'Clure was left in command at Batavia. On the 27th the troops

at Buffalo and Black Rock, were reviewed, and found to consist, in the aggregate, including Indians, of 1741 men, which were increased, on the morning of the 29th, by about 300 men, giving an entire force of 2041 men; but this force was soon reduced, by desertion, to 1200; and even these so deficient in ammunition, that a part of the cartridges were made and distributed after the men were paraded for battle, on the morning of the 30th.

In the evening of the 29th, at 12 o'clock, the horse patrol had been fired on, a short distance below Conjoktie's creek, and one mile below Black Rock. The troops were immediately paraded, and stood by their arms. An attempt was made to dislodge the enemy from the sailor's battery near Conjoktie's, of which he had obtained possession. The attempt failed, through the darkness of the night, and confusion into which the militia were thrown by the enemy's fire. A second body of militia, sent on the same service, was equally unsuccessful; the men, after a short skirmish, fled in disorder. A third detachment was ordered on the same service, but was recalled to oppose a body of men which was discovered, as the day dawned, crossing the river. As soon as the force of the enemy was ascertained to be large, and commanded by Lieut. Col. Drummond, and their position reconnoitred, the best possible disposition was made to oppose them, with a force inferior in number, as it was in experience, and ammunition of war. General Hall thus briefly details the effect:

"The attack was commenced by a fire from our six pounder under lieut. Seely, below general Porter's house, and one 24 and two 12 pounders at the

Battery, under command of lieut. Farnum, of the 21st U. S. Infantry, acting as a volunteer. At the same time the enemy opened a heavy fire from their batteries on the opposite side of the river, of shells, spherical and hot shot, and ball. The regiment under command of col. Blakeslie, about 400 strong, were regularly in line, together with detached bodies from other corps, amounting, according to the best estimate I can make, in all about 600 men.—These few but brave men, commenced the attack with musketry upon the enemy in their boats, and poured upon them a most destructive fire. Every inch of ground was disputed with the steady coolness of veterans, and at the expense of many valuable lives. Their bravery, at the same time that it casts a lustre over their names, reflects equal disgrace on those who fled at the first appearance of danger—and whom neither intreaties nor threats could turn back to the support of their comrades.

“Perceiving that the Indians, on whom I had relied for attacking the enemy’s flank, were offering us no assistance—and that our right was endangered by the enemy’s left, I gave directions for the reserve, under command of col. M’Mahan, to attack the enemy in flank on our right. But terror had dissipated this corps, and but few of them could be rallied by their officers and brought to the attack. Of this corps there are some who merit well of their country—but more who covered themselves with disgrace. The defection of the Indians and of my reserve, and the loss of the services of the cavalry and mounted men, by reason of the nature of the ground on which they must act, left the forces engaged exposed to the enemy’s fire in front and flank. After standing their ground for about one half hour, opposed to veterans and highly disciplined troops, overwhelmed by numbers, and nearly surrounded, a retreat became necessary to their safety, which was accordingly made. I then made every effort to rally the troops with a view to renew



the attack on the enemy's columns, on their approach to the village of Buffalo. But every effort proved ineffectual; and experience proves, that with militia a retreat becomes a flight, and a battle once ended, the army is dissipated. Deserted by my principal force, I fell back that night to the Eleven mile creek, and was forced to leave the flourishing villages of Black Rock and Buffalo, a prey to the enemy, which they have pillaged and laid in ashes."

General Hall retired to Eleven mile creek, where he collected about 300 men; and, with these, endeavoured to cover the fleeing inhabitants, and make a show to prevent the advance of the enemy.

Eight pieces of artillery fell into the hands of the enemy. About 30 men were killed, and somewhat more than that number wounded, in the defence of Black Rock. But the worst remains to be told, or rather some faint idea to be given of the indescribable barbarity of the enemy.

Black Rock and Buffalo were destroyed, together with every building for two miles east of Buffalo on the Batavia road, and almost every building between Buffalo and Niagara along the river. "The enemy," says General Hall, "had with him at Black Rock and Buffalo, a number of Indians, (the general opinion in that country is about 200,) who pursued their accustomed mode of horrid warfare, by tomahawking, scalping, and otherwise mutilating the persons who fell into their hands. Among the victims of their savage barbarity, was a Mrs. Lovejoy, of Buffalo, who was tomahawked, and afterwards burnt in her own house. The conduct of these savages has struck the minds of the people on the Niagara frontier with such horror, as to make it absolutely necessary, that a more efficient

force than the ordinary militia of the country, should be employed for its protection, to prevent its becoming entirely depopulated."

All the settlements of a populous country, 40 miles square, were completely broken up, and 42,000 persons sent as if into beggery. The tomahawk and bayonet deprived parents of their children, and children of their parents; the savages white and red, who acted not merely as conquerors, but as murderers and robbers, by a fell swoop, pounced upon their prey with the ferocity of the tiger, and the all-desolating ruin of the locust. On the 4th January the robbers retired into their own woods, not daring to wait the chastisement that was prepared for them.

Considerable contributions of money were collected for the relief of the surviving sufferers, who gradually returned to view the smoking ruins of their late habitations.

The enemy having declared their conduct on the Niagara frontier, to have been committed in retaliation for excesses said to have been committed by the American armies in Canada, the censure, or rather indignation of the suffering inhabitants were turned against Gen. M'Clure, who had the command. The general, previous to retiring from command, published an address to the public, in justification of his own conduct, in which he seems to have been pretty successful. M'Clure was certainly a good and zealous soldier; ever ready to obey his superiors, he exacted obedience from those who were placed under his command; he knew that strict discipline was essential to form the practical soldier; and he probably suffered in the esteem of some, because he pursued a system from which he could not depart without a crime, that might stamp him with indelible disgrace.

The importance of Fort Niagara, as a military position, is sufficiently evident, and the possibility of preserving it has been unfortunately proven by an enemy, who probably would not meditate its reduction, were he not, in some manner apprized that the garrison, sufficiently strong, was not sufficiently watchful. Had this post been preserved, as it might have been, the ruthless massacre of its garrison, after resistance had ceased, would not have happened; nor would a savage enemy have dared to attempt his horrid incursion, without the previous possession of the key to the settlements along the Niagara frontier.

These observations are not merely speculative. The enemy had undoubtedly an early eye on the post at Niagara; it may perhaps be cause of surprise to some, that it was not seized while in a state of ill defence, and, that its occupation by the enemy, was deferred to a time, when it was amply supplied with men, arms, and ammunition. This can be best explained, by a re-assertion, that the enemy prudently waited until he could find the garrison not watchful, sleeping. To the undaunted prowess of one of the most intrepid, zealous, and active officers of the army, is to be attributed, that the enemy had not an earlier possession of Niagara Fort. Captain M·Keon, of the artillery, in his bold and successful defence of this post, has signalized himself in a manner that had few parallels during the war, and may probably be ranked, because it bore strong similitude, to the brave exploit of the hero of Lower Sandusky. This act of Captain M·Keon will be best explained by the following letter to the Secretary of War, which is now published, for the first time.

*New-York, 6th June, 1813.*

SIR—When the army was yet in its infancy, and but very few troops to garrison the old fort of Niagara, I had the honour to command at that station, a company of the 3d reg. U. S. artillery ; at this time the enemy prepared to bombard us, and raised several strong batteries for the purpose. We sustained his fire for seven hours, and had our works so much shattered, that our commandant Captain Leonard thought them no longer tenable : he had the guns spiked, and evacuated the fort. According to orders I retreated with the garrison ; but at a very short distance from the place, I solicited and obtained Captain Leonard's permission to return to it : at the moment it was the depot of an immense quantity of public stores, worth perhaps a million of dollars, and still more valuable in a military point of view ; these I wished at every risk to preserve. Though I possessed entire command of all my men, I took back with me but 25 ; because from the circumstance of the guns being spiked, I could not employ more, and this number was enough for the execution of my plan if it should succeed, and enough to lose if it should fail. I placed centinels on the ramparts and at the barriers, and caused them to give the usual call every six minutes, through the night, so as to impress the enemy with a belief that the fortress was garrisoned, and the garrison vigilant : At the same time four men belonging to the laboratory had port fires lighted and fuzees prepared to blow up the magazine and all, if the enemy could not be intimidated from advancing upon us. Fortunately he was intimidated ; the fort was saved ; and the next morning at 6 o'clock the garrison returned with a reinforcement. On the 16th of October, a second order was issued by Gen. Alexander Smyth, for the evacuation of this fort, and the public property was accordingly removed from it to Lewiston ; but immediately I represented to Col. Winder, that the fort was not only ten-



able, but that I would maintain it: he was pleased to sanction this opinion, and thus I was, in some measure, the cause of preserving it a second time. On the 21st of November following, the enemy bombarded our fort with the greatest fury for 13 hours; during this time it was my good fortune to have been most assailed by his attack and most opposite to his position. The conflagration of Fort George and Newark will I trust bear testimony to the successes of my efforts on that day.

(Signed)

JAS. M'KEON,  
late Capt. Art'y.

The brave defence of Fort Niagara led to the following garrison order.

#### GARRISON ORDER.

*Fort Niagara, October 15th, 1812.*

It is with the greatest satisfaction the commanding officer gives to Capt. M'Keon his full approbation for his spirited and judicious conduct, during the severe cannonading from Fort George and the batteries on the opposite side the river, against this post, for more than seven hours on the 13th October inst.

To Dr. West he begs to express his sincere thanks for the aid and assistance received from him. To the non-commissioned officers and privates of the garrison he has only to say that they have his full approbation for their cool and determined courage, and their zeal and activity during the day.

N. LEONARD, Capt.  
Commanding Fort Niagara.

While things were thus progressing on land, the British were preparing a naval force for the annoyance of the citizens on the sea-board.

Admiral Warren arrived at Halifax on the 27th September, 1812; and having attempted in vain to deceive the American government with false professions of a pacific intention, he proceeded in January, off New-York.

Early in February, 1813, the Chesapeake bay and Delaware river were blockaded.

The British fleet continued in the bay and rivers connected therewith. Their transactions, for the greater part, form a history of petty landings, wherever no considerable force could be opposed to them, burning or taking every vessel that came within their power, plundering the inhabitants adjacent to the waters, burning houses, and insulting, in the most libidinous manner, those females, who did not, or could not fly from them. The following deserve particular record.

A letter, of which the following is a copy, was sent to Lewistown, in the state of Delaware, on the 16th March, 1813.

"SIR,—As soon as you receive this, I must request you will send *twenty five bullocks*, with a proportionable quantity of *vegetables* and *hay* to the Poictiers, for the use of his Britannic majesty's squadron now at this anchorage, which shall be immediately paid for at the Philadelphia prices. If you refuse to comply with this request, I shall be under the necessity of *destroying your town*.

"I have the honour to be, Sir, your ob't. servant,

"J. P. BERESTORD, Commodore,  
commanding the British squadron in  
the mouth of the Delaware.

"*The first magistrate of Lewistown.*"

The magistrate transmitted the letter to Governor Haslet, who sent a reply to the admiral on the 23d, concluding in the following words: "I have only to observe to you that a compliance would be an immediate violation of the laws of my country, and an eternal stigma on the nation of which I am a citizen. A compliance, therefore, cannot be acceded to."

On the evening of the 6th April, the Belvidera and two small vessels came close into Lewis, and commenced an attack, by firing several 32lb. shot into the town, which have been picked up; after which a flag was sent, to which the following reply was returned.

"SIR,—In reply to the renewal of your demand, with the addition for a "supply of water," I have to inform you that neither can be complied with. This, too, you must be sensible of; therefore I must insist the attack on the inhabitants of this town is both wanton and cruel. I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,

"S. B. DAVIS, Col. Commandant."

Another message was sent, in which the British Captain Byron, among other matter, wrote, "I grieve for the distress of the women"—to which a verbal reply was given. "That Colonel Davis is a gallant man, and has already taken care of the ladies."

The attack continued till near 10 o'clock.—The firing was kept up during the greater part of the following day. One of the most dangerous of their gun-boats was silenced by the fire from a small battery. The enemy withdrew on the 8th, after firing on Lewis for 22 hours, with little effect, and without accomplishing his object.

In their progress up the bay, the British landed at Frenchtown on the Elk river, and burned the store-houses, destroying or carrying away all the public and private property which they contained.

From Frenchtown, the enemy proceeded to Havre-de-Grace, a flourishing little village on the Susquehannah, where they landed, in considerable force, on the 3d of May, and proceeded

to plunder and burn with a savageness that required but the use of the scalping knife, to out-rival their red allies. Twenty-four of the best houses in the town were burned, and the others plundered. A small party of militia were stationed at Havre-de-Grace, who, on the approach of the enemy, made a slight resistance, and then retreated. An Irishman, named O'Neil, with a courage amounting to rashness, and an enthusiasm not confined by cold loyalty, opposed his single arm to the British host, was taken prisoner and carried on board the British fleet, but afterwards released on parole.

His countrymen, residing in Philadelphia, presented the brave O'Neil with a sword.

From Havre-de-Grace, the enemy proceeded further up the river, and burned the warehouse belonging to Mr. Stump, and a furnace belonging to Mr. Hughes, at Princeippi.

On the morning of the 4th, the enemy evacuated Havre-de-Grace, and proceeded down the bay.

The next exploit of the enemy was the burning of the unprotected villages of Frederick and Georgetown; the former in Cecil county, the latter in Kent county, opposite each other on the Sassafras river, in the state of Maryland.

The movements of the enemy on the 20th June, having indicated a design to attack Norfolk, which place was then ill prepared for defence, Captain Tarbell, finding Craney Island rather weak manned, directed Lieutenants Neale, Shubrick, and Sanders, with 100 seamen, to a small battery at the N. W. point of the island. At 5 o'clock on the morning of the 22d, the enemy was discovered landing round the point of Nansemoad river, a force, reported by deserters



and others, to exceed 3000 men ; at 8, A. M. the barges attempted to land, in front of the island, an additional force of 1500, when Lieuts. Neale, Shubrick, and Sanders, with the sailors under their command, and the marines of the Constellation frigate, 150 in number, opened a fire, which was so well directed, that the enemy was obliged to retreat to his ships. Three of his largest barges were sunk ; one of them, called the Centipede, Admiral Warren's boat, 50 feet in length, carried 75 men, the greater part of whom were lost. Several of the boats fell back, in the rear of the island, and commenced throwing rockets from Mr. Wise's houses ; but they were quickly compelled to move off, by the shot directed to that quarter, from gun-boat No. 67.— In the evening, the enemy's boats came round the point of Nansemond, and, at sun-set, were seen returning to their ships, full of men. At dusk, they strewed the shore along with fires, in order to run away by the light.

The British troops, that were previously landed, made their appearance on the main land, with a view to attack the west and north positions of the island, but with no better success than attended the men in the boats. Two 24 pounders and four 6 pounders were advantageously posted, under the direction of Major Faulkener, of the artillery, which were so well served by Captain Emerson, Lieutenants Hall and Godwin, that they produced a serious effect on the enemy, who was soon compelled to retreat.

Opposed to the large British force, there were but a few hundred militia and artillerists ; there were mounted on the island not more than eight pieces of cannon that could be brought to bear on the enemy. “ The officers of the Constella-

tion," according to the official report of Comd. Cassin, "fired their 18 pounders more like rifle-men than artillerists."—This defence did great honour to the few Americans who were engaged. Norfolk was an important post, and the enemy determined on its occupation; the force sent against it was large; Admiral Cockburn commanded in person, and was in one of the barges, encouraging the men to advance. Some French deserters reported, that a large bounty was to be given to the men in the event of success, and that it was promised to them, that *Norfolk would be given up to be plundered.*"

The loss of the enemy could not be less than 200, exclusive of several deserters; 22 prisoners were taken; also a brass 3 pounder, with a number of small arms, pistols, cutlasses, &c.

Not a man was lost on the side of the Americans; the enemy used only Congreve rockets.

On the 25th June, between 30 and 40 barges were discovered, filled with men, approaching the mouth of Hampton creek, from the direction of Newport's Noose. The American troops were quickly formed on Little-England plantation, south west, and divided from Hampton by a narrow creek, over which a slight foot bridge had been erected. In a short time, the enemy commenced landing troops in rear of the Americans. A little after five o'clock, A. M. several barges approached Black-beard's Point, the headmost of which commenced a firing of round shot, which was returned from a small battery of four long 12 pounders. The entire of the force landed by the enemy, consisted of at least 2500 men, supported by several field-pieces, and some heavy guns, and rockets; the American troops were composed of 319 infantry and rifle, 62 artillerists,

and 25 cavalry. This little force made the most judicious and best defence that was practicable, manœuvring and disputing every inch of ground. The contest was at one time very sharp, and was maintained with a resolution that left hope of repelling the invaders; but the enemy, being very numerous, attempted to outflank and cut off the Americans, when part of the latter began to disperse in various directions. It now became indispensibly necessary for all the Americans to retire, which they did under a continued, but ill-directed fire, from the enemy, who pursued them for two miles. The Americans occasionally stopped at a fence or ditch, and at every fire brought down one of the pursuing foe.

Capt. Pryor, with his Lieutenants Lively and Jones, and his brave, active matrosses, after slaughtering many of the enemy with his field pieces, remained on the ground till surrounded—and when the enemy was within 60 or 70 yards of the fort, they spiked their guns, broke through the enemy's rear, and, by swimming a creek, made good their retreat without losing a man, taking with them their carbines, and hiding them in the woods.

The American loss was 7 killed, 16 wounded, of whom 2 died of their wounds, 1 prisoner, and 11 missing. The enemy took possession of the village of Hampton, after suffering a loss, by the most probable calculation, of at least 200 men.

Major Crutchfield, who commanded the Americans, states the enemy's conduct, in the following extract, from his official report:

“ To give you, sir, an idea of the savage like disposition of the enemy, on their getting possession of the neighbourhood, would be a vain attempt. Although Sir Sidney Beckwith assured me, that no un-

easiness need be felt in relation to the unfortunate Americans; the fact is, that yesterday there were several dead bodies lying unburied, and the wounded not even assisted into town, although observed to be crawling through the fields towards a cold and inhospitable protection.

“The unfortunate females of Hampton, who could not leave the town, were abused in the most shameful manner; not only by the soldiers, but by the venal savage blacks, who were encouraged in their excesses. They pillaged, and encouraged every act of rapine and murder, killing a poor man by the name of Kerby, who had been lying on his bed, at the point of death, for more than six weeks, shooting his wife in the hip at the same time, and killing his faithful dog, lying under his feet. The murdered Kerby was lying last night weltering in his bed.”

A committee of Congress, in a report to the house, thus notice this transaction.

“The shrieks of the innocent victims of infernal lust at Hampton, were heard by the American prisoners, but were too weak to reach the ears or disturb the repose of the British officers, whose duty, as men, required them to protect every female whom the fortune of war had thrown into their power. The committee will not dwell on this hateful subject. Human language affords no terms strong enough to express the emotions which the examination of this evidence has awakened; they rejoice that these acts have appeared so incredible to the American people. And, for the honor of human nature, they deeply regret, that the evidences so clearly establish their truth. In the correspondence between the commander of the American and British forces, will be found what is equivalent to an admission of the facts by the British commander.”

The enemy soon evacuated Hampton, and retreated to his shipping, to avoid the punishment, which, had he remained, would have soon been



inflicted. The following extract of a letter from Capt. Cooper, to the lieutenant governor of Virginia, is proof of shocking barbarity which would disgrace the savage of the wilderness.

“ I was yesterday in Hampton with my troop—that place having been evacuated in the morning by the British. My blood ran cold at what I saw and heard. The few distressed inhabitants running up, in every direction to congratulate us; tears were shedding in every corner—the infamous scoundrels, monsters, destroyed every thing but the houses, and, (my pen is almost unwilling to describe it) the women were ravished by the abandoned ruffians.—Great God! My dear friend, can you figure to yourself our Hampton females, seized and treated with violence by those monsters, and not a solitary American arm present to avenge their wrongs! But enough—I can no more of this. The enemy have received a reinforcement of 2000—in all, 6000 men; and Norfolk or Richmond is their immediate aim. Protect yourselves from such scenes as we have witnessed. They retired in great confusion, leaving 3000 weight of beef, some muskets, ammunition, canteens, &c. and some of their men, which we took. It is supposed that they apprehended an immediate attack from 6000 of our men, which caused them to retreat so precipitately. My friend, rest assured of one thing—that they cannot conquer Americans—they cannot stand them, If we had had 1200 men, we should have killed or taken the greater part of them.”

In further proof of these enormities, the following extract is given, from the letter of a gentleman of great respectability.

“ At present you must content yourself with the following, and *believe it as religiously as any fact beyond denial.* Mrs. Turnbull was pursued up to her waist in the water, and dragged on shore by ten or twelve of these ruffians, who satiated their brutal

desires upon her, after pulling off her clothes, stockings, shoes, &c. This fact was seen by your nephew, Keith, and many others. Another case—a married woman, her name unknown to me, with her infant child in her arms, (the child forcibly dragged from her,) shared the same fate. Two young women, well known to many, whose names will not be revealed *at this time*, suffered in like manner.—Dr. Colton, Parson Halson, and Mrs. Hopkins, have informed me of these particulars—another, in the presence of Mr. Hope, had her gown cut off with a sword, and violence offered in his presence, which he endeavoured to prevent, but had to quit the room, leaving the unfortunate victim in their possession, who, no doubt, was abused in the same way.

“Old Mr. Hope himself was stripped naked, pricked with a bayonet in the arm, and slapped in the face—and were I to mention a hundred cases in addition to the above, I do not know that I should exaggerate.”

Admiral Cockburn is the redoubtable hero, who commanded the enemy in the *manly* attack on Hampton.\*

On the 26th June, three of the enemy's barges attempted to enter Pagan creek, but were resisted by a detachment of militia; and after exchanging 14 shots, without effect on either side, the enemy retired.

The enemy had such a total command of the waters of the Chesapeake, and the rivers falling into it, wherever the same were without the

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\* James O'Boyle, an Irishman, residing at Pugh-town, in Virginia, offered a reward of 1,000 dollars, for the head of “the notorious incendiary, and infamous scoundrel, and violator of all laws, human and divine, the British admiral, Cockburn,” or 500 dollars for each of his ears.

range of shot from the shore ; and his movements were so various, that a general alarm was excited in the neighbourhood of these waters ; the troops were necessarily kept embodied, and moving in a manner, which occasioned distressing and harrassing difficulties. The fate of the females at Hampton excited an indignation, and roused a patriotism and a love of family kindred, which stifled all complaints among the harrassed soldiery of Virginia and Maryland.—“ Hampton” was a watch-word, at which every husband, father, brother, and man, took his gun and fled with willingness, to meet the ruffians, who threatened, with worse than murder, the fair daughters of America.

It would scarcely be interesting to detail every petty landing, skirmish and adventure, that occurred, while the enemy remained in the Chesapeake—the most conspicuous of them will, however, be noticed.

A party of the enemy landed a little below James-Town, on the 2d July, but were repulsed by the militia. Two of the enemy were killed, two taken, and several wounded. The militia suffered no loss.

On the 14th July, the U. S. schooner *Asp*, was attacked in Yocimo river, by the crews of two brigs, who put off in their boats, for that purpose. The boats, 3 in number, were beaten off by the well directed fire from the *Asp* ; about an hour after, the boats returned, with two other boats, well manned. There were but 21 men on board the *Asp*, and they could not effectually resist the great force sent against them ; they, however, defended themselves obstinately and bravely ; nor did they retreat until after the *Asp* was boarded by more than 50 of

the enemy. The enemy set the vessel on fire. After their retreat, the survivors of the brave American crew, went on board and extinguished the flames. The American loss in killed and wounded, amounted to 10 men. Mr. Sigourney, the intrepid commander of the *Asp*, was among the killed.

Some essays, published by the late Robert Fulton, on the practicability of destroying ships by *torpedoes*, induced several persons to turn their thoughts to this subject. A Mr. Mix, of the navy, accompanied by Captain Bowman, of Salem, and Midshipman M-Gowan, essayed to destroy the ship of war *Plantagenet*, of 74 guns, lying in Lynnhaven bay. For this purpose, they proceeded in a boat, in the night of the 24th July, 1813, and having reached within 100 yards of the ship, dropped the torpedo. It was swept along by the tide, but exploded a few seconds before it would have come in contact with the vessel. It produced great consternation and confusion on board the vessel, and induced several of the crew to take to their boats. The ship was greatly agitated, and some damage done by the violent motion of the water. The noise, occasioned by the explosion, was loud and tremendous; and the appearance of the water, thrown up in a column of 30 or 40 feet high, awfully sublime. It has not been ascertained that any lives were lost.

The fleet, under command of Admiral Cockburn, returned to the Chesapeake on the 16th July, after an invasion of North-Carolina, where the country was pillaged and laid waste by the enemy, for several miles. On the 12th, a part of this fleet, consisting of two 74's, 3 frigates, and 3 schooners, appeared off Ocracock bar,



in North-Carolina, and immediately despatched, in boats, between 700 and 800 men, who attacked the privateer *Anaconda*, and schooner *Atlas*, lying inside the bar. There were but 18 men on board the *Anaconda*, who resisted the boats as long as they could, until finding that the vessel must be taken, they discharged the guns into the hull; but the enemy boarded her in time to plug the holes. The *Atlas*, and some small craft, were captured. The enemy took possession of Ocracock, and the town of Portsmouth, without opposition.

Mrs. Gaston, of Newburn, wife of the member of Congress, being told that the British had landed, and would shortly be in possession of Newburn, fell into convulsive fits, and expired in a few hours. Mrs. Curtis died in a similar manner, and a Mrs. Shepherd was at the point of death, but has recovered. Apprehensions of being treated like the unfortunate females of Hampton, it is supposed, produced this extraordinary degree of terror. A large body of militia and volunteers were assembled in the vicinity of Portsmouth, and on the point of attacking the enemy, when he thought prudent to retire.

Lieut. Angus, commanding the Delaware flotilla, having discovered, on the 27th July, that the enemy had chased and taken a small vessel, near the Overfalls, got under way, and stood for the enemy. At the distance of about three quarters of a mile, he brought the enemy's sloop of war to action, having anchored for that purpose, 8 gun-boats, and 2 block-ships, in a line ahead. A heavy British frigate, had, by this time, anchored about half a mile further out.—After a cannonade of one hour and 45 minutes,

in which the enemy received several shot, without any material damage being done to the flotilla, he manned his boats, 10 in number, (2 launches, the rest large barges and cutters,) with between 30 and 40 men in each, and despatched them after gun-boat No. 121, sailing-master Shead, which had fallen a mile and a half out of the line, and succeeded in capturing her, after a gallant resistance. The enemy would have been totally defeated, had he not been favoured by a calm, which enabled him to carry off the gun-boat No. 121, the colours of which were not struck until after being boarded. The sound of cannon, on this occasion, was heard at the city of Washington, a distance of 120 miles.

Sailing-master Shead concludes his official report in the following words :

“ I found it necessary, for the preservation of those few valuable lives left, to surrender to seven times our number ; the enemy boarding, loaded our decks with men ; we were all driven below, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the officers could stay the revenge of the seamen, who seemed to thirst for blood and plunder, the last of which they had, by robbing us of every thing ; we had none killed, but 7 wounded, 5 slightly. The enemy's loss by us, was 7 killed, and 12 wounded, 4 of which have since died. They have conquered me, but they have paid dearly for it ; and I trust, Sir, when you come to view the disadvantages that I laboured under, having been but 7 days on board my boat, and scarcely time to station my men, and the misfortune of entirely disabling my gun, and the superiority of numbers to oppose me, you will be convinced that the flag I had the honour to wear, has not lost any of that national character which has ever been attached to it.”

It is painful to the historian, that while he records the many instances of virtuous patriotism,

and glorious prowess, which signalized the citizens and inhabitants of the United States, it becomes also his duty to record their crimes and treasons. Much consolation is, however, derived from the reflection, that patriotism was the prevailing sentiment of a great majority of the people. The following general order was published, and dated from the navy department, at the city of Washington, and sent, as a circular, to the commanding officers of stations, or vessels of the navy of the United States.

“ The palpable and criminal intercourse held with the enemy’s forces, blockading and invading the waters and shores of the U. States, is, in a military view, an offence of so deep a die, as to call for the vigilant interposition of all the naval officers of the United States.

“ This intercourse is not only carried on by foreigners, under the specious garb of friendly flags, who convey provisions, water, and succours of all kinds, (ostensibly destined for friendly ports, in the face, too, of a declared and rigorous blockade,) direct to the fleets and stations of the enemy, with constant intelligence of our naval and military force and preparation, and the means of continuing and conducting the invasion to the greatest possible annoyance of the country; but the same traffic, intercourse, and intelligence, is carried on with great subtilty and treachery, by profligate citizens, who, in vessels ostensibly navigating our waters, from port to port, under cover of night, or other circumstances favouring their turpitude, find means to convey succours or intelligence to the enemy, and elude the penalty of the law. This lawless trade and intercourse is also carried on to a great extent, in craft, whose capacity exempts them from the regulations of the revenue laws, and from the vigilance which vessels of greater capacity attract.

“ I am therefore commanded by the President of the United States, to enjoin and direct all naval commanding officers, to exercise the strictest vigilance, and to stop or detain all vessels or craft, whatsoever, proceeding, or apparently intending to proceed, towards the enemy's vessels within the waters, or hovering about the harbours of the United States; or towards any station occupied by the enemy, within the jurisdiction of the United States, from which vessels or craft the enemy might derive succours or intelligence.

W. JONES.”

The enemy, the better to carry his projects in the Chesapeake into execution, took possession of Kent-island, and fortified the narrows; which station he, however, soon afterward deserted. On the 10th August, he made an attack on St. Michael, with 11 barges, which went up the river on the opposite side, and came down on the side of St. Michael, with so little noise, that they were not perceived passing up or down the river; and as it was very cloudy, and the men in the fort, without suspicion of attack, the enemy landed before they were discovered. The men fired two guns and left the fort, of which the enemy immediately took possession, and gave three cheers, supposing they would have St. Michael without much difficulty; but they were very much mistaken, for the St. Michael's people, and Capt. Vickers, of the Easton packet, with the artillery from Easton, attacked them so briskly, and pointed their guns with so much judgment, that our invaders were soon obliged to make off—the infantry were not engaged. Not a man of the Americans was hurt, although the grape shot flew like hail in the town, and their balls went through a number of the houses. The two



shots that were fired from the fort must have done some execution, as a quantity of blood was seen on the shore, and two swords and a pistol were left behind, and their barges were seen to be struck by the artillery from the town.

On the morning of the 14th August, at four o'clock, the enemy attacked Queenstown, in Queen Anne county, both by land and water;—about 600 troops were landed and marched up to the town, and 20 armed barges made the attack by water—the attack was so unexpected, that but little resistance was made—a picket guard of the American militia were fired on by the enemy, 1 of them was killed, and 2 or 3 wounded—the militia retreated to Centreville, and left the enemy in possession of the town.

Were the enemy to confine himself to the capturing of vessels and their cargoes, and the destruction of public property, he would be justifiable; but it is due to truth, not to conceal, that, departing from all established rules of warfare, he not only carried off private property, whenever he could seize it, but also destroyed whatever he could reach, and could not remove. On the 2d November, he landed on George's island, and burned all the buildings on it, he decoyed a great number of negroes, with a promise to make them *free*—and afterwards shipped these wretches to the West-Indies, where they were sold as *slaves*, *for the benefit of British officers*. The following device was practiced with success.

A party of militia, (17 in number,) stationed themselves behind the Sand-hills, while two white men, with their faces and hands blacked, went down upon the beach, and waved their handkerchiefs to the ships, when a boat, with six men, immediately came ashore, followed, at some

distance, by two others, full of men. Just as the men from the first boat were preparing to land, one of those disguised, in walking a few steps, showed his bare ancles, which he omitted to blacken, when the enemy exclaimed—"White men in disguise, by —; let us push off!"—which they did, and, at the same moment, the militia ran out and fired upon them, until they were out of gun-shot; they killed two out of the six.

It would be impossible, in the compass allotted to this work, to do justice to the enemy:—his barbarous and plundering conduct in the Chesapeake, and adjoining rivers, can only be equalled by the conduct of the same enemy in a former war. "The species of warfare," says the editor of a Norfolk paper, "waged by Captain Lloyd of the Plantagenet, on the inhabitants of Princess Anne county, is of that pitiful and dishonourable kind, which cannot fail to attach a lasting stigma to his character, and cause his name to descend to oblivion, coupled with that of the infamous *Dunmore*, and clogged with the bitter execrations of all who shall hear the tale of his rapacity."

The Norfolk Herald thus ably and humanely notices the seizing and carrying off negroes.

"To take catle or other stock, would be consistent with the usage of civilized warfare; but to take Negroes, who are *human beings*; to tear them forever from their kindred and connexions is what we should never expect from a *Christian* nation, especially one that has done so much to abolish the "slave trade." There are Negroes in Virginia, and we believe in all the southern states, who have their interests and affections as strongly engrafted in their hearts, as the whites, and who feel the sacred

ties of filial, parental, and conjugal affection, equally strong, and who are warmly attached to their owners, and the scenes of their nativity. To those, no inducement, which the enemy could offer, would be sufficient to tempt them away. To drag them away, then, by force, would be the greatest cruelty. Yes, it is reserved for England, who boasts of her religion, and love of humanity, to practice this piece of cruelty, so repugnant to the dictates of christianity and civilization."

The great vigilance and activity of the citizens, tended not only to disappoint, but frequently to punish the marauders.

On the 11th September, about 15 men volunteered from a militia company, stationed near the inlet, at Norfolk, to go and attack a party of the British, who were said to be on shore at the Cape. When they came to the Cape, and were mounting one of the sand hills, they found themselves in full view, and within musket-shot of a large body of marines, who were exercising. A cluster of officers were standing some distance off, between their main body and our militia--the latter had not a moment to spare; they took deliberate aim at the officers and fired; four of them fell! The militia then made the best of their way back to camp, while the enemy's shot whistled over their heads in all directions, but without effect.

The proceedings of the enemy along the coast, east of the Delaware, were not generally important.

The frigate *United States*, Com. Decatur; frigate *Macedonian*, Capt. Jones; and sloop of war *Hornet*, Capt. Biddle, on the 24th May, got under way from New York, with an intention of proceeding to sea through the Sound. When

off Hunt's Point the mainmast of the United States was struck with lightning, which tore away the Commodore's broad pendant, and brought it down on deck, passed into one of the port-holes, down the after hatchway, through the ward room into the doctor's room, put out his candle, tore up his bed, and then passed between the skin and ceiling of the ship, and tore up about 20 nails of her copper at water's edge. No further trace of it could be discovered. The Macedonian was about 100 yards astern of the United States, and on observing the lightning strike her, immediately hove her topsails aback, fearing that the fire might find its way to the magazine.

On the 1st of June, the vessels attempted to put to sea, but were chased into New-London by a British force, consisting of a 74, a razee, and a frigate. The blockade of New-London was immediately formed; and the inhabitants very highly alarmed lest the town would be attacked.

On the 21st June, the British privateer Buckskin, (formerly belonging to Salem,) chased a coaster into Owl Head Narrows, (a small harbour in Massachusetts,) where five others were lying, the whole of which were captured and removed down into what is called the Thoroughfare, preparatory to being manned out. and they began unlading one of the sloops, into which they intended to put the prisoners. During this time, from 2 to 300 militia collected. and proceeded down to Fox Island, it being thick foggy weather, when at 1-2 past 3, on the morning of the 22d, the fog clearing away, the privateer appeared at anchor about 20 rods from the shore, where they commenced firing upon her with small arms, and one field piece, which killed the



privateersmen almost as fast as they came on deck. The 1st lieutenant cut the cable, and in attempting to hoist the jib, (lying flat on his back,) had his under jaw shot away; the captain was killed; and but 9 men, it is said, remained unhurt, the rest being either killed or wounded. It being ebb tide, she drifted out, and when out of the reach of the musketry, got under way, leaving all her prizes, which again fell into the hands of the rightful owners. The crews put in to man them, in attempting to escape to the privateer in boats, were either killed or wounded. The action lasted an hour.

On the 23d June, two barges, containing each about 15 men, from the blockading squadron off New-London, attempted to land near the lighthouse, but on observing a company of artillery near the shore, pulled off as fast as possible. When the enemy imagined themselves out of danger, they stood in the barges and cheered. At this moment a shot was fired from the artillery, which struck one of the boats, and killed or wounded eight or ten of the men in it.

A Mr. Scudder formed a design of destroying the British ship *Ramilies*, of 74 guns, off New-London. For this purpose ten kegs of powder were put into a strong cask, with a quantity of sulphur mixed into it. At the head of the cask was fixed two gun-locks, with cords fastened to the triggers, and to the under side of the barrels in the hatchway, so that it was impossible to hoist the barrels without springing the locks each side of the powder—and on the top was placed a quantity of turpentine, and spirits of turpentine, which in all probability was sufficient to have destroyed any vessel that ever floated on the water, if she could have been got along

side, which was the object in view. These kegs were put on board the smack *Eagle*, which sailed from New-York on the 15th June, for New-London, but which the crew abandoned, on being pursued by the boats of the enemy. It was expected that the vessel would be brought along side the *Ramilies*; and, by exploding, would destroy that ship. The wind dying away, and the tide being against them, she could not be brought along side. When the *Eagle* exploded, there were four boats along side, and a great many men on board her. After the explosion, there was not a vestige of the boats to be seen; the body of fire rose to a vast height, and then burst like a rocket. Every man near or about her were probably lost, as the boats sent from the *Ramilies* were seen to return without picking up any thing.

On the 10th June, three barges belonging to the blockading squadron, after capturing some sloops at the mouth of Connecticut river, attempted to land at Saybrook, but were beaten off by the militia. The enemy had three men killed on this occasion. The militia escaped unhurt.

On the 24th July, a 1st and 3d lieutenant, a sailing-master, and five men, belonging to the *Ramilies*, were surprised and taken on Gardner's Island, by a party of the crew of the *United States*, despatched for the purpose, by Com. Decatur. The prisoners were parolled, and, being at liberty, were joined by others of their crew, when they found themselves sufficiently strong to seize and carry off the American boat. There was an attempt also made to intercept the American party, but they escaped in a whale-boat to Sag-Harbour, from whence they returned in safety to New-London.

Shortly after this transaction, Mr. Joshua Penny, of Easthampton, Long-Island, was taken out of his bed during the night, by a party from the enemy's ship, and, being brought on board the *Ramilies*, was put in irons. Major Case, commanding the troops of the U. States at Sag-Harbour, demanded his release as a non-combatant; but the British officer, Capt. Hardy, declined, on the ground that he was a combatant—that he conducted a party of seamen from New-London to Gardner's Island, there to surprise and take several British officers—that his name had been entered on the books of one of the frigates, and that he had been "*employed in a boat contrived for the purpose, under the command of Thomas Welling, prepared with a torpedo, to destroy this (Capt. Hardy's) ship.*" This last crime was undoubtedly that which led to the capture and severe treatment of Mr. Penny. He was treated with great severity while on board the *Ramilies*, from which vessel he was sent to Halifax, where he was treated like other prisoners. He was sent to Salem in a cartel ship, in May, 1814, and probably owed not only his liberation, but his life, to the circumstance that the President of the United States ordered two British subjects to be held as hostages for the safety of Mr. Penny.

The New-London blockading squadron came, on the 8th September, by the Sound, to a place about 20 miles from the city of New-York, captured 20 coasters, took a quantity of sheep from the main, and had probably other robberies or injuries in view. Com. Lewis, on receiving information of the enemy's movement, proceeded up the Sound, with 25 gun-boats. By 9 o'clock on the 9th, he was at Sands's Point, within 10

miles of the enemy. A British frigate and a sloop of war got under way and stood toward them. At one o'clock, P. M. the commodore brought his flotilla to anchor in Hempstead bay, ready to receive the enemy. The British exchanged 10 or 15 shots at too great a distance to produce any effect, and then stood to the eastward, and were soon out of sight. The flotilla returned to its former station.

On the 5th July, the British tender *Eagle*, which had been employed by Com. Beresford, for the purpose of burning coasters, &c. was taken by a *coup de main*. The smack *Yankee* was borrowed for this purpose. Sailing-master Perceival went on board, and concealed 30 men in the hold, he tied a calf, a sheep, and a goose on deck, and, thus prepared, he stood out of Musquito Cove; three men appeared on deck. The *Eagle*, on perceiving the smack, immediately gave chase, and after coming up with her, and finding she had live stock on deck, ordered her to go down to the commodore, then about five miles distant. The helmsman of the smack answered "aye, aye, sir," and apparently put up the helm for that purpose, which brought him along side the *Eagle*, not more than three yards distant. The watch-word, *Lawrence*, was then given, when the armed men rushed on deck from their hiding places, and poured into her a volley of musketry, which struck her crew with dismay, and drove them down so precipitately into the hold of the vessel, that they had not time to strike their colours. Seeing the enemy's deck clear, Sailing-master Perceival, who commanded the expedition, ordered his men to cease firing—upon which one of the enemy came out of the hold and struck the colours of the *Eagle*.



She had on board a 32 pound brass howitzer, loaded with cannister shot ; but so sudden was the surprise, they had not time to discharge it. The crew of the *Eagle* consisted of H. Morris, master's mate of the *Poictiers*. W. Price, midshipman, and 11 seamen and marines. Mr. Morris was killed, Mr. Price mortally wounded, and one marine killed and one wounded. The *Eagle*, with the prisoners, arrived off the Battery in the afternoon, and landed the prisoners at Whitehall, amidst the shouts and plaudits of thousands of spectators, assembled on the Battery, celebrating the anniversary of our Independence.

A detachment from the gun boat flotilla near Sandy-Hook, most gallantly beat off about 100 of the crew of the *Plantagenet*, which drove ashore and boarded the schooner *Sparrow*. of Baltimore, the 3d November, near Long Branch. The cargo, together with sails, rigging, &c. were saved ; the vessel bilged.

The following copy of a letter from lieutenant Nicholson, commanding the gun-boats at Newport, announced the capture of the armed British sloop *Dart*, on the 9th October.

"SIR—I have the pleasure to inform you of the capture of the British armed sloop "*Dart*," by the revenue cutter of this place, last evening. She appeared off the harbour before sun-set ; the captain of the cutter offered his services to go out ; I put on board three sailing-masters and about 20 men ; she immediately made sail and laid aboard the *Dart*, and carried her by boarding ; her first officer was killed ; 2 of our own men were wounded slightly. The prisoners I send for your disposal. Very respectfully,  
your most obedient humble servant,

"JOHN NICHOLSON.

"Com. John Rodgers, U. S.  
*Frigate President.*"

The British Admiral Warren issued a proclamation on the 16th November, declaring Long-Island Sound in a state of rigorous blockade. This was an extension or explanation of a former proclamation of the 24th September, by which the ports and harbours of New-York, Charleston, Port Royal, Savannah, and the river Mississippi were declared in a state of strict and rigorous blockade.

A proclamation was issued by the governor of Vermont on the 10th of November, 1813, the object of which was to call home from the service of the United States a portion of the militia which had been then serving in the state of New-York. Brigadier General Davis repaired to the army, and demanded a compliance with the orders of his excellency; but obedience was refused, and the general was arrested.

A reply to the proclamation was drawn up at Plattsburgh the 15th November, and directed to his excellency, signed by all the officers of the Vermont militia then there. The reply contained, among other matter, the following decided and unequivocal expressions:

“ We consider your proclamation as a gross insult to the officers and soldiers in service, inasmuch as it implies that they are so *ignorant* of their rights as to believe you have authority to command them in their present situation, or so *abandoned* as to follow your insidious advice. We cannot regard your proclamation in any other light, than as an unwarrantable stretch of executive authority, issued from the worst of motives, to effect the basest purposes. It is, in our opinion, a renewed instance of that spirit of disorganization and anarchy which is carried on by a faction, to overwhelm our country with ruin and disgrace. We cannot perceive what other object your

excellency could have in view than to embarrass the operations of the army, to excite mutiny and sedition among the soldiers, and to induce them to desert, that they might forfeit the wages to which they are entitled for their patriotic services."

A most positive proof of that actual treason, which lurked under the shade of an ill-timed opposition to the measures of the general government, was, soon afterward, discovered. near New-London, as will be best explained by the following communication from Com. Decatur to the Secretary of the Navy, dated at New-London, December 20th, 1813 :

"Some few nights since, the weather promised an opportunity for this squadron to get to sea, and it was said on shore that we intended to make the attempt. In the course of the evening two blue lights were burnt on both the points at the harbour's mouth as signals to the enemy, and there is not a doubt, but that they have by signals and otherwise, instantaneous information of our movements. Great but unsuccessful exertions have been made to detect those who communicate with the enemy by signal. The editor of the New-London Gazette, to alarm them, and in hope to prevent the repetition of these signals, stated in that newspaper, that they had been observed, and ventured to denounce those who had made them in animated and indignant terms. The consequence is, that he has incurred the express censure of some of his neighbours. Notwithstanding these signals have been repeated and have been seen by 20 persons at least in this squadron, there are men in New-London who have the hardihood to affect to disbelieve it, and the effrontery to avow their disbelief."

The U. S. frigate Congress. Capt. Smith, arrived at Portsmouth in December, after a cruise of nearly eight months. During her cruise, she got sight of an enemy's line of battle ship, with a

frigate in company. She captured and destroyed one ship and one brig; and sent another captured brig as a cartel to the West-Indies. It will be recollected that the Congress sailed from Newport in April, in company with the President and parted company the 8th May.

The hostile attitude of the Indians, and the battle with them at Tippacanoë, previous to the war, excited alarm, and caused an enquiry into its cause. A committee of congress, on that part of the President's message, which related to Indian affairs, turned their particular attention to the following enquiries:

“1st. Whether any, and what agency the subjects of the British government may have had in exciting the Indians on the western frontier, to hostilities against the United States.

“2d. The evidence of such hostility, on the part of the Indian tribes, prior to the late campaign on the Wabash.

“3d. The orders by which the campaign was authorised and carried on.”

The committee reported, that “the evidence before them was as conclusive as the nature of the case can well be supposed to admit of, that the supply of Indian goods furnished at Fort Malden, and distributed during the last year by the British agents in Upper Canada, to the Indian tribes, were more abundant than usual; and it is difficult to account for this extraordinary liberality, on any other ground than that of an intention to attach the Indians to the British cause, in the event of a war with the United States.”

“Additional presents,” continued the committee, “consisting of arms and ammunition, given at a time when there is evidence that the British



were apprized of the hostile disposition of the Indians, accompanied with the speeches addressed to them, exciting disaffection, are of too decisive a character to leave doubt on the subject."

The part which the Indians took in the war between Great Britain and the United States, was an additional and strong evidence in support of the agency, which the British government had in the early hostility of the savages.

Scarcely was the Indian war with the north western tribes brought to a conclusion, than the tomahawk was raised on the south-western border.

The southern tribes were divided into parties; one hostile, the other friendly, to the United States. The former was the stronger party; the latter needed protection, and were so bent on hostility, that it was found impossible to enforce on them a neutral policy. A departure from the usual forbearance of the United States' government, to accept their services, was unavoidable; and the proffered services of friendly Indians were accepted.

It having been discovered that in consequence of an order from a British general in Canada, a large quantity of munitions of war were distributed by the Spanish governor of Pensacola, among the hostile tribe of Indians, Colonel Collier, with about 180 men, marched, with a view to intercept the Indians, on their return. On the 27th July, 1813, on the east side of Alabama, and waters of Escambia, he fell in with, and gave battle to the Muscogees. The fight was, for a short time, well maintained on both sides. At the moment when victory was about to declare in favour of Col. Collier's party, a junior officer, without authority, cried out "re-

treat!" It passed through the whole line, and, notwithstanding the exertions of Col. Collier, it was impossible to rally the militia: the enemy was left master of the field. Col. Collier lost 2 men killed, and 10 wounded. The Indians acknowledged a loss of six killed, and several wounded. A considerable part of the presents brought by the Indians from Pensacola, fell into Col. Collier's hands.

Fort Mimms, on Tensaw, was unexpectedly attacked on the 30th August, by a large force of Indians. The front gate lay open, and the Indians were rushing through, when first perceived by the garrison. The men, under command of Major Beasley, were quickly formed, and a part of them contested a passage through the gate with great bravery; the action soon became general; the port-holes were taken and re-taken several times. A block-house was defended by Capt. Jack and a few riflemen, for an hour after a part of it had been possessed by the enemy. A galling fire was kept up from the houses, until the enemy gave fire to the roofs. The place was no longer tenable. A retreat was attempted, under direction of Capt. Bailey, of the militia, and Ensign Chambless, of the rifle company, but few of the party were able to affect it. Major Beasley fell while defending the gate, at the commencement of the action, which continued for about six hours.—Ninety-two men, including officers, were killed; and many respectable citizens, with numerous families, who had abandoned their farms for security, were also killed or burned in the houses, into which they had fled. The loss of the enemy could not be ascertained, but must have been very considerable.

Capt. Kennedy, who was sent, after the retreat of the Indians, to bury the dead, made a report to Gen. Claiborne, of which the following is an extract :

“ We collected and consigned to the earth TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY-SEVEN, including men, *women and children.*”

“ The adjacent woods were strictly searched for our countrymen, and in that pursuit we discovered at least *one hundred slaughtered Indians.* They were covered with rails, brush, &c. We could not be mistaken as to their being Indians, as they were interred with their war-dress and implements—and although they have massacred a number of our helpless women and children, it is, beyond doubt, to them, a dear-bought victory.”

The massacre at Fort Mimms, was followed by several other cruel murders in different places.

The general government, having been informed of these transactions, made a requisition on the states of Tennessee and Georgia, for detachments of militia, to be sent against the hostile Indians of the Creek nation.

The legislature of the state of Tennessee adopted a resolution, on the 27th September, in the following words :

“ *Resolved,* That the governor of this state be, and he is hereby required, forthwith to give immediate information to the executive of the United States, of the time when, and the place at which, the 3,500 men will be prepared to obey the orders of the general government, accompanied with a request that the said troops be immediately received into the public service.”

The legislature of Georgia gave authority to the governor, to call out such portion of the militia, as he might deem necessary, for the secu-

city and protection of the frontier inhabitants; and requiring that he call on the general government for subsistence for the troops that might be thus called out. This was, in effect, putting them at the disposal of the general government.

The militia of the states of Georgia and Tennessee, with the nearest regular troops, and other corps from the Mississippi territory, were marched against the hostile savages. General Andrew Jackson commanded the entire.

The first victory (for every battle, after this period, was a victory,) is thus detailed by Gen. Jackson :

“ We have retaliated for the destruction of Fort Mimms. On the 2d, I detached Gen. Coffee with a part of his brigade of cavalry and mounted riflemen, to destroy Tallushatches, where a considerable force of the hostile Creeks were concentrated. The general executed this in style. A hundred and eighty-six of the enemy were found dead on the field, and about 80 taken prisoners, 40 of whom have been brought here. In the number left, there is a sufficiency but slightly wounded, to take care of those who are badly.

“ I have to regret, that five of my brave fellows have been killed, and about 30 wounded ; some badly, but none I hope mortally.

“ Both officers and men behaved with the utmost bravery and deliberation.

“ Captains Smith, Bradley, and Winston, are wounded, all slightly. No officer is killed.”

It appears, by Gen. Coffee's statement, dated Camp at Ten-islands of Coosa, November 4th, that the Indians fought with a bravery that would do them honour, had they been engaged in a just cause, with an obstinacy, that would yield to nothing but death, and with a contempt of danger, truly characteristic of the savage.—



The detachment, under command of Gen. Coffee, consisted of 600, cavalry and mounted riflemen. Being arrived within one and a half miles of the Tallushatches town, the detachment was divided into two columns, the right composed of the cavalry, under Col. Allcorn; the left composed of mounted riflemen, under Col. Cannon. Gen. Coffee, marched with the riflemen; Col. Allcorn encircled one half of the town, while Col. Cannon completed the circle, by closing on the side opposite to Col. Allcorn. When within half a mile of the town, the drums of the enemy beat, and the savage yells announced that the enemy was prepared for battle. In about an hour after sun-rise, Capt. Hammond, and Lieut. Patterson's companies went within the circle, and succeeded in drawing forth the enemy, and commenced the battle, when they withdrew before a violent charge from the Indians, until they reached Col. Allcorn's column, when a general fire was opened on the savages, who retreated, firing until they got around and into their buildings. Here they fought as long as one existed. No quarter was sought, and none, from all appearance, would be accepted. The assault by the troops was warm and courageous, rushing up to the doors of the houses, as little intimidated as if there was no enemy to oppose them. In a conflict of this nature, it was impossible to provide against the destruction of a few of the squaws and children. The number of the enemy killed must have exceeded 200; 186 of whom were found; 84 women and children were taken prisoners. The loss of the militia consisted of 5 privates killed: 4 captains, 2 lieutenants, 2 cornets, 3 sergeants, 5 corporals, 1 artificer, and 24 privates, wounded.

On the evening of the 7th November, an express arrived to Gen. Jackson, with information, that the hostile Creeks had encamped in great force near Lashley's fort, (Talladaga.) with the apparent intention of attacking the friendly Indians. The general immediately marched with about 2000 men, against the enemy, and encamped that night within six miles of the fort. At 4 o'clock, on the morning of the 8th, he continued his march toward the enemy, who was encamped within a quarter of a mile of the fort, to relieve which, Gen. Jackson had so expeditiously moved. At sun-rise, the General was within half a mile of the fort, when he moved forward in order of battle. The plan of attack was similar to that which proved so successful on the 3d inst. The enemy was to be enclosed in a circle. The advanced guard sent forward to bring on the engagement, succeeded in drawing forward the savages toward the main body of the army. On the arrival of the Indians, within a short distance of the main body of the army, a few companies of the militia commenced a retreat; but finding their place quickly supplied by a body of cavalry, who dismounted for the purpose, the militia rallied, when a general fire from the front line, and from that part of the wings which was contiguous, was poured on the savages, who, unable to withstand or resist, retreated; but were met at every turn, and repulsed in every direction. Had it not been for the retreat of the militia, in the early part of the action, this victory would probably have been as complete as that of the 2d. The victory, however, was very decisive; 290 of the enemy were left dead on the field; many more were probably killed, who were not found; and

many, or most of those who escaped, must have been wounded. Jackson was compelled to return to his camp near the Ten-islands, having marched from thence without baggage, or other necessities that could be dispensed with, or might retard his march. He lost, in the engagement, 17 killed, and 86 wounded. The enemy exceeded 1000 warriors. A stand of colours, bearing the Spanish cross, was taken from them.

On the 12th November, Gen. White was detached from Fort Armstrong, on the Coosa, with about 1100 mounted men, (including upwards of 300 Cherokee Indians,) for the purpose of attacking the Hillabee towns, on the west side of Tallapoosa river. On the 17th, about 1 o'clock at night, the detachment marched within eight miles of the upper town, received information from one of their spies, a half breed and son of a Mr. Grayson, who had considerable property, and resided in that place, that his family and property would be sacrificed by the Indians on the next day, if Gen. White did not relieve him. Gen. White, with alacrity, dismounted *three hundred* of his troops, with part of the Indians, and marched to surprise the town before day-light. Having large creeks to wade, and the van having to tarry some time for the rear, which had fallen behind some distance, the town was not reached until sun-rise on the 18th, when the town was completely surrounded, and the savage enemy received the first fire without the least notice of the approach. They fired several guns, but were charged home upon them with loaded muskets, and charge of bayonets; and in 10 or 15 minutes they held up a flag, and the firing ceased. An Indian town

at Little Oakfuskee, consisting of 30 houses, a town called Genalga, consisting of 93 houses, were burned by the troops in their march. The great number, if not the whole of the hostile Creeks, assembled at the Hillabee town, consisting of about 316, were either killed or captured. Sixty warriors were killed on the spot. Gen. White's detachment had not a man killed or wounded.

Gen. Floyd, with 950 of the Georgia militia, and between 300 and 400 friendly Indians, proceeded to a town called Auttossee, on the southern bank of the Talapoosee, about 18 miles from the Hickory Ground, in order to attack a large force of hostile Indians, reported to be assembled at that place. At half an hour after six o'clock, in the morning of the 29th November, the expedition reached the front of the town, and the men were formed for action. At this time, when the army was about to execute a pre-concerted manœuvre, for the purpose of surrounding the enemy, a second town was discovered about 500 yards below that which was first discovered. This compelled Gen. Floyd to adopt a new manœuvre, by dividing and disposing his force, so that both towns might be attacked at once. This disposition being made, and the troops having advanced, the battle commenced, and soon became general. The Indians fought with their usual obstinacy and desperation, but were soon compelled, by the superior force of artillery, and a charge of bayonets, to retreat, and take refuge in the out-houses and copses in the rear of the town. At 9 o'clock, the enemy was completely driven from the plain, and the houses wrapped in flames. The militia being 60 miles from any depot of provisions, and



but little remaining, it was judged imprudent to continue in the heart of a country, surrounded by hosts of savages. This place was, therefore, abandoned, and the troops commenced their march to Chatahouchie.

Auttossee was a favourite spot with the Indians, and it is conjectured, that the force assembled from several towns for its defence, must have been very considerable. It is difficult to give a precise account of the loss of the enemy; but from the number which were lying scattered over the field, together with those destroyed in the towns, and the many slain on the bank of the river, which respectable officers affirm they saw lying in heaps at the water's edge, where they had been precipitated by their surviving friends, their loss in killed, independent of their wounded, must have been at least 200, (among whom were the Auttossee and Tallassee kings;) and from the circumstances of their making no efforts to molest the troops, probably greater. The number of buildings burnt, some of a superior order, for the dwellings of savages, and filled with valuable articles, is supposed to be 400.

The number of the Americans killed and wounded, as furnished by the hospital surgeon, was—Total killed, 11; total wounded, 54; among whom was Gen. Floyd, badly.

A detachment, under command of Gen. Claiborne, marched from Fort Claiborne, east bank of the Alabama, on the 13th of December, against the Indians residing on the Alabama, above the mouth of the Cahaba. After a march of more than 100 miles, principally through woods, without a track to guide them, they came in sight of a new town, lately built by the Indians, on a ground called "Holy." This

town was established as a place of security for the inhabitants of several villages; and three of the prophets resided in it. The place was then occupied by a large body of the enemy, under the command of Wetherford, a bold and sanguinary chief, who was one of those who commanded the Indians at the massacre of the garrison and inhabitants at Fort Mimms. About noon, on the 23d December, the right column of the army, composed of 12 month's volunteers, commanded by Col. Joseph Carson, came in view of the town, and was immediately and vigorous attacked by the enemy, who, being apprized of the approach of the troops, had chosen their field of action. Before the other troops or friendly Indians could come generally into action, the enemy were repulsed, and flying in all directions. Thirty of the enemy were killed, and many wounded. The loss to the army was one killed, and six wounded. A pursuit was attempted, but found to be impracticable, owing to the nature of the ground. The town, consisting of 200 houses, was burned, together with a large quantity of provisions, and immense property of various kinds, which the enemy could not carry away. The next day was employed in destroying a town consisting of sixty houses, eight miles higher up the river.

Notwithstanding these repeated defeats, the savages seemed yet bent on war. Before day, on the morning of the 27th January, a very large body of Indians attacked the troops at Camp-Defiance, 48 miles west of Chatahouchie. The onset was desperate, and the surprise as complete as possible. In 20 minutes after firing on the sentinels, the action became general, the enemy pressing close on the front, right and

left flanks of the army; but the savages were repelled at every point. The enemy rushed nearly to the cannon's mouth, and gained the rear of the picket guards, commanded by Capt. Broadnax; but the latter bravely cut their way through the savages, and joined the army. As soon as day dawned, and objects could be distinguished, a charge was ordered, and the enemy fled before the bayonet. The signal was given for the charge of the cavalry, who pursued and sabred 15 of the enemy; who left 37 dead on the field. From the effusion of blood, and the number of head-dresses, and war-clubs, found in various directions, their loss must have been considerable. The loss of the army, on this occasion, was 17 killed, and 132 wounded. Of the friendly Indians, five were killed, and 15 wounded.

Gen. Jackson having received information at his head-quarters, Fort Strother, from Capt. McAlpin, who commanded at Fort Armstrong, in the absence of Col. Snodgrass, that 14 or 15 towns of the enemy, situated on the waters of the Tallapoossee, were about uniting their forces, and attacking the fort, which was then in a feeble state of defence, the general resolved on an excursion into the enemy's country, further than had been hitherto attempted. He accordingly commenced his march on the 15th January, with 930 men, exclusive of Indians. On the 18th, the army encamped at Talladega fort, where it was joined by about 200 friendly Creek Indians, and 65 Cherokees. Here the general received a letter from Colonel Snodgrass, who had returned to Fort Armstrong, informing him, that an attack was soon to be made on that fort, by 900 of the enemy. It was further under-

stood, that the enemy was collecting in a bend of the Tallapoosce, near the mouth of a creek called Emuckfau, on an island below New-Yorcan.

On the 20th, at night, the army encamped at a small Hillabee village, about 12 miles from Emuckfau. On the 21st, the army marched in a direct line for the bend of the Tallapoosce.—In the afternoon, the army halted, and the general determined to encamp for the night, that he might have time to reconnoitre, and make dispositions for attack, if he were in the neighbourhood of a large force, which, from appearance, he judged to be the case. Having chosen an eligible scite, the army encamped in a hollow square. Spies and pickets were sent out, the sentinels doubled, and the necessary arrangements were made to resist an attack, if it should be attempted during the night; or to make one, if the enemy could be found at day-light the following morning. While the army was in this state of readiness, the enemy, about 6 o'clock in the morning, commenced a vigorous attack on the left flank, which was as vigorously met. The action raged for half an hour on the left flank, and on the left of the rear of the army.

The brave Gen. Coffee, with Col. Sittler, the adjutant-general, and Col. Carroll, the inspector-general, the moment the firing commenced, mounted their horses and repaired to the line, encouraging and animating the men to the performance of their duty. So soon as it became light enough to pursue, the left wing, having sustained the heat of the action, and being somewhat weakened, was reinforced by Capt. Ferrill's company of infantry, and was ordered and led on to the charge by General Coffee, who was



well supported by Col. Higgins, and the inspector-general, and by all the officers and privates who composed that line. The enemy was completely routed at every point, and the friendly Indians joining in the pursuit, they were chased about two miles, with considerable slaughter.

Gen. Coffee, who was detached with 400 men, to reconnoitre the enemy's encampment, returned, with a view to bring up the artillery, which he deemed necessary to the attack. In half an hour after his return, a considerable force of the enemy commenced a fire on a party of men who were then in search of Indians. Gen. Coffee, with only 54 men, a part of 200 who were to have acted with him, commenced an attack on the left flank of the enemy; 200 friendly Indians were ordered at the same time to attack the enemy's right. At this moment it was discovered that the attack of the enemy was but a feint, having intended, by drawing off the general's attention from his left, to attack it with success: in this the enemy was disappointed. The whole line met the approach of the enemy with astonishing intrepidity, and having charged, forced the savages to retreat with precipitation. They were pursued to a considerable distance, and severely galled by a very destructive fire.

During this transaction, Gen. Coffee was contending against a very superior force. As soon as possible a reinforcement was sent to his aid, which soon decided the contest in that quarter: the enemy was charged, routed, and pursued for three miles. Nothing now remained but to destroy an empty camp, which did not seem of sufficient importance to delay a return to Fort Strother, which was commenced on the following morning.

On the 24th, as the men were crossing the Enotachopoc creek, an alarm gun announced the advance of the enemy. Gen. Jackson expected an attack, and had dispositions made to turn it to the disadvantage of the enemy. The right and left columns of the army were directed to turn on their pivots, recross the creek above and below, and fall on the enemy's flanks and rear. The manœuvre, if executed, would probably prove as destructive to the enemy as any thing hitherto attempted; but, at the moment when a few guns were fired, the right and left columns of the rear guard gave way; the greater part of the centre column followed the disastrous example, leaving not more than 25 men, who maintained their ground as long as possible. There was then left to repulse the enemy, but the few who remained in the rear guard, the artillery company, and Capt. Russell's company of spies. Amidst a most galling fire from the enemy, this little band, not one-tenth of the number opposed to it, advanced to the attack. The artillery and a few others gained the top of a hill, drawing up with them a six-pounder, when they poured on the enemy several discharges of grape, then charged, repulsed, and pursued him for two miles, leaving 26 of their warriors dead on the field. The loss in these several engagements, was 20 killed and 75 wounded. The loss of the enemy could not be exactly ascertained; 189 of their warriors were found dead; this undoubtedly formed but a part of the killed; the wounded must have been proportionably numerous.

All the effects intended by this excursion, seem to have been produced. If an attack was intended against Fort Armstrong, that was pre-

vented; a diversion was made in favour of Gen. Floyd, who was on the east side of the Tallapoosee; the number of the enemy was lessened, and their confidence in their leaders broken in on; the enemy's country was explored, and a road cut through an important part of it; and, on the whole, tended to, and hastened the termination of Indian hostilities, as much, if not more, than any previous expedition.

Hitherto the enemy was engaged either in the open field, or in situations where he had little advantage from works of art, and not much from nature. One situation remained to be assailed, where a skilful display of art rendered a position, naturally strong, so seemingly impregnable, that it required a great effort of courage to approach it, a consummate skill to direct the attack, and a persevering, undaunted resolution, to prosecute it to success.

In the bend of the Tallapoosee, two miles beyond where Gen. Jackson engaged the Indians on the 22d January, the savages had fixed on a site for erecting a fortification. Nature furnished few places more eligible for defence, and it was improved by art, with a skill not discovered before in an Indian fortification. The bend resembles, in its curvature, a horse-shoe. Across the neck of land, which leads into it from the north, a breastwork was erected, of the greatest compactness and strength, from 5 to 8 feet high, and prepared with double rows of port-holes, very artfully arranged; an army could not approach it, without being exposed to a double and cross fire from the enemy, who lay in perfect security behind it. Gen. Jackson resolved on the attack of this important and doubly strong position. The Indian force amount-

ed to about, or upwards of 1000 warriors. The army approached this formidable position on the 27th March, near enough to prepare for the attack. General Coffee, with the mounted men, and nearly the whole of the Indian force, crossed the river about two miles below the encampment, with a view to prevent the escape of the Indians; the infantry advanced slowly along the point of land which led to the front of the breastwork; a six and a three pound cannon were planted on an eminence, at a distance of 150 to 200 yards from it. A fire from rifles was directed against the enemy, whenever he showed himself beyond his defences. When this fire was kept up about two hours, a party crossed over in canoes, and fired a few of the buildings, and then advancing boldly up to the breastwork, commenced a fire on the enemy behind it. This proving insufficient to dislodge him, Gen. Jackson resolved to take it by storm. The troops received the order with acclamation, and advanced with an ardent and zealous enthusiasm. "Having maintained," says Gen. Jackson, in his letter to Gov. Blount, "for a few minutes a very obstinate contest, muzzle to muzzle, through the port-holes, in which many of the enemy's balls were welded to the bayonets of our muskets, our troops succeeded in gaining possession of the opposite side of the works. The event could no longer be doubtful. The enemy, although many of them fought to the last with that kind of bravery which desperation inspires, were at length routed and cut to pieces. The whole margin of the river which surrounded the peninsula, was strewed with the slain." The fighting continued with some severity about five hours. Five hundred and fifty-seven of the



enemy were left dead on the peninsula, and a great number were killed in attempting to cross the river; it was supposed that not more than 20 escaped; 250 women and children were taken prisoners. Gen. Jackson's loss amounted to 43 white men killed; and 173 wounded; 23 friendly Indians killed, and 47 wounded.

This battle broke down the spirits, as it materially reduced the remaining strength of the savages. *Wetherford* surrendered himself to Gen. Jackson. Six or seven towns followed the example of this chief. *M-Queen*, with 500 of his followers retired to the Escambia river, near Pensacola. Peace was quickly restored, The militia were disbanded, and returned to their homes.

*Wetherford*, whose unconditional surrender has been just mentioned, had been the most active and sanguinary of all the Indian chiefs. He signalized himself in several actions: ever present where danger pressed, he was the constant advocate of murder and extermination. In a private interview with Gen. Jackson, he delivered the following speech:

"I fought at Fort Mimms—I fought the Georgian army—I did you all the injury I could—had I been supported as I was promised, I would have done you more. But my warriors are all killed—I can fight you no longer. I look back with sorrow, that I have brought destruction on my nation. I am now in your power—do with me as you please. I am a soldier."

The barbarous complexion which the enemy gave to the war, was not confined to the employment of Indians. We have already detailed barbarities in which Indians did not participate. Many others must remain untold; our limits

will not admit a full detail of this part of the subject. The treatment to prisoners of war was not merely unusual; it was, in the last degree, cruel, unprecedented, barbarous. The authenticated proofs, congressional records, affidavits, &c. are shockingly numerous.

The exercise, by Britain, of a presumed right to command, at all times, the services of native subjects, gave rise to one of the causes of war, to wit, *the impressment of seamen out of neutral vessels on the high seas*. This principle, it was intended, should govern the enemy in conducting the war.

The crew of the U. S. brig Nautilus, which had been captured in the early part of the war, arrived at Boston in a cartel, the 11th September, 1812, except six men, who were put in irons; and were, as Lieut. Crane understood, to be tried for their lives as *British subjects*, found in arms against their king. Com. Rodgers, on learning the circumstance, stopped a cartel which had got under way for Halifax, and took out twelve Englishmen as hostages for the six Americans.

On the 11th October, six of the crew of the private armed ship Sarah Ann, which was captured and sent to Nassau, were taken out of jail, and sent to Jamaica, to be there tried as *British subjects*, found in arms against their king. It appears, that, on this occasion, the British officer fell into a *mistake*, similar to those which had been so commonly committed before the declaration of war; four of the persons thus detained were natives of the United States; the others were Irishmen by birth, but had been naturalized citizens of the United States. On the arrival of Capt. Moon (late

commander of the Sarah-Ann,) at Charleston, 12 Englishmen, including a midshipman, were put in close confinement, as hostages for the six men taken from Capt. Moon's crew.

By a letter from Geo. S. Wise, pursuer of the United States' sloop of war Wasp, to the secretary of war, it appears that after the capture of that vessel, by the British ship Poictiers, 12 of the crew of the Wasp were detained by Capt. Beresford, as British subjects.

That the enemy intended to deny to others the exercise of rights in manner as claimed by himself, is evident, from the circumstance of the British admiral Warren having refused the liberation of Thomas Dunn, a native of the U. States, because the said Dunn, had been *married in England*, and had been eight years in his majesty's service. The application for his liberation was made by Mr. Mitchell, U. S. agent for the exchange of prisoners at Halifax, at the particular request of the father of said Dunn, then residing at Boston.

Twenty-three of the prisoners, taken by the enemy at Queenstown, were sent to England, to be tried as British subjects, for appearing in arms against their king. The United States' government ordered 23 British soldiers into close confinement, as hostages for the safety of those so taken at Queenstown. In retaliation, the British government ordered 46 United States' officers and non-commissioned officers into close and rigorous confinement.

The system of retaliation, after this circumstance, bore a very serious aspect, and threatened to be as extensive as prisoners on either side were numerous.

The secretary of state transmitted to congress

on the 16th April, 1814, a very important report on the subject matter which led to the practice of retaliation, in which it is stated, that the British government, among other pretexts for not discharging citizens of the United States impressed into their service, alledged, that they were natives of Prussia, Sweeden, &c. thus evincing, that the recovery of their *own* native subjects, was not the *sole* motive of impressment.—The secretary further reported,

“ That all the nations of Europe naturalize foreigners :

“ That they all employ in their service the subjects of each other, and frequently against their native countries, even when not regularly naturalized ;

“ That although examples may be found of the punishment of their native subjects taken in arms against them, the examples are few, and have either been marked by peculiar circumstances taken them out of the controverted principle, or have proceeded from the passions or policy of the occasion. Even in prosecutions and convictions having the latter origin the final act of punishment nas, with little exception, been prevented by a sense of equity and dread of retaliation. It is confidently believed that no instance can be found in which the alledged purposes of the enemy against the 23 prisoners in question, under all the circumstances which belong to their case, even though any of them may not have been regularly naturalized, are countenanced by the proceedings of any European nation.”

A publication, of which the following is a copy, appeared from the navy department of the United States the 28th July 1814, and was understood to be a relinquishment of the system of retaliation, on the part of England and of the United States ; the 23 American soldiers, sent to England, and all other Americans held by the



enemy as hostages, having been restored to the state of ordinary prisoners.

“ All officers, seamen and marines of the U. S. Navy, captured by the troops or vessels, within the command of Sir George Prevost, prior to the 15th day of April last, have been duly exchanged, and declared competent to serve against the enemy. They will therefore immediately report themselves to the commanding naval officer of the station on which they are or may arrive.”

The time, when the armies must be in winter quarters, and the officers less engaged than they would be at another season, was chosen for the trial of Gen. Hull. A general court martial assembled for that purpose at Albany, the 5th January, 1814, and proceeded in the trial, from time to time, until the 8th March.

Three charges were presented against him, to wit, *treason against the United States ; cowardice ; and neglect of duty and unofficer-like conduct*—to all which, he pleaded *not guilty*.

The general, having protested against the competency of the court to try the first charge, the court declined making any formal decision on it ; but yet gave an opinion that nothing appeared to them which could justify the charge.

The court acquitted him of that part of the third specification which charges him with having “ forbidden the American artillery to fire on the enemy, on their march towards the said Fort Detroit,” and found him guilty of the first, second part of the third, and the fourth specifications.

On the third charge, the court found the accused guilty of neglect of duty, in omitting seasonably to inspect, train, exercise, and order the troops under his command, or cause the same to be

done. They also found him guilty of part of the fourth and fifth specifications, and the whole of the sixth and seventh; and acquitted him of the second and third, and part of the fourth and fifth specifications.

The court sentenced "the said Brigadier-General William Hull to be shot to death, two thirds of the court concurring in the sentence; but, in consideration of his revolutionary services, and his advanced age, recommended him to the mercy of the President of the United States."

The President of the United States approved the sentence, remitted the execution, and ordered the name of Gen. Hull to be erased from the list of the army.

The general, in an address to the people of the United States, appealed to their decision against the verdict and sentence of the court, declaring himself innocent, notwithstanding the verdict, and charging the government with persecution and injustice to himself.

A circumstance of great interest, and which might have a great effect on the war between Great-Britain and the United States, occurred in March, 1814. On the 31st of that month, the allied armies of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, headed by their respective sovereigns, triumphantly entered the French capital, overthrew the Bonapartean dynasty, sent its chief into exile, and replaced Louis XVIII. on the throne of his ancestors.

Hitherto the power of England was divided between making war on France and the United States of America; it was to be now entirely turned against the latter, at least so the British editors threatened. Indeed America would certainly be punished, overthrown, re-subjugated,

and enslaved, if the editor's lead could be formed into balls, instead of types, and these pressed into cannon, instead of being pressed on paper.

The new situations of affairs in Europe, created much alarm, but no despondency in America. The citizens saw the approach of a terrible conflict, but they resolved to meet it. The legions, which gained the character of "invincible," in Spain, Portugal, and France, were to be vomited on the shores of America; the thousand ships of Britain were to blockade the coast; British tars, without number, were to cover the lakes; and these myriads, by sea and by land, were to be directed, by those commanders who swept the European navies from the ocean, and out-rivaled the best generals of the first warrior in the world. Yet, notwithstanding these exterminating threats and gloomy prospects, America was destined to preserve her independence and honour; and to gather more laurels in 1814, than she did in any former year of this war.

In accordance with the *views*\* of the war department, and a design, the result of a correspondence between the Secretary of War and Gen. Wilkinson, the latter entered Canada, on

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\* General Wilkinson's words, in his official statement, were, "Pursuant to the designs communicated to you in my last, and to accomplish your views." Immediately after the publication of the general's letter, the following comment appeared in the National Intelligencer: "We are authorised to state, that Gen. Wilkinson's late movement was not pursuant to the *views* of the war department. These *views* (or orders) advised him to seize and hold a given position on Lake Champlain, and *admonished* him against an incursion into Canada."

the morning of the 30th March, 1814. The issue of this expedition was unfortunate, although in its progress, it did honour to the Americans engaged. The enemy claimed a victory, only because he was not vanquished; and pretended to gather laurels, while circumstances concurred to render it nearly impossible to attack or drive him from his cowardly strong-holds.

General Wilkinson, at the head of his division, marched from Champlain, with the intention of reducing the enemy's fortress at the river La Cole. About 11 o'clock, he fell in with the enemy at Odell Town, three miles from La Cole, and six from St. John's. An attack was commenced by the enemy on the advance of the army under Col. Clark and Major Forsyth. Col. Bissel came up with spirit, and the enemy was forced to retire with loss. General Wilkinson took part in this action, and bravely advanced into the most dangerous position, declining frequently the advice of his officers, to retire from imminent danger. The enemy having used his congreve rockets, without producing any effect, retired to La Cole, whither he was pursued. At this place an action was expected; but the enemy, whose force, when increased by a reinforcement from Isle-au-Noix, amounted to at least 2,500 men, mostly regulars, declined meeting the American force, although much inferior in numbers and means of warfare. He took possession of a block-house and a stone mill, the wall of which was so thick, that it could not be battered except by the heaviest artillery. An 18 pounder, which was brought from Champlain, could not be drawn over the bad roads, and was left behind; a battery of lighter guns was raised within 300 yards of the mill, but no breach was practi-



cable by it. Several sorties were made by the enemy, but they were resisted with bravery and success. The cannonade was continued until it was fully ascertained that no breach could be made; and that the enemy would not come to an engagement, when the Americans withdrew to Odell Town, and afterwards to Champlain.

Captain M'Pherson, of the light artillery, (military secretary to Gen. Wilkinson) was, at his own particular request, placed in command of the guns which formed the battery; he was aided by Lieutenants Larrabee and Sheldon.— Captain M'Pherson soon received a wound under the chin, which he tied up with his handkerchief, and continued at his piece until a second shot, which broke his thigh, brought him to the earth. Larrabee had kept his station until shot through the lungs; and Sheldon kept up the fire until ordered to retire. The conduct of every individual attached to the American command, was marked by that patriotism and prowess which has so often conquered the boasted discipline, long experience, and military tactics of an enemy, who dared not to expose his “invincibles” to the disgrace of being defeated by a less numerous force of Yankee woodsmen.

A small quantity of stores, intended for the use of the army and fleet at Sackett's Harbour, were deposited at Fort Oswego; and a considerable quantity at the Falls, 10 miles in the rear of the fort. The enemy prepared an expedition to seize both. Lieut. Col. Mitchell, of the artillery, arrived at Oswego on the 30th April, 1814, for the protection of that place, which he found in a very bad state of defence. Of cannon, there were but 5 guns, 3 of which had lost their trunnions. What could be done in the way of

repair, was effected ; new platforms were laid, the gun carriages put in order, and decayed pickets re-placed. At day-light, on the morning of 5th May, a British naval force of 4 ships, 3 brigs, and a number of gun and other boats, were discovered at about 7 miles from the fort. The force, at the fort, consisted of 290 effectives. These were too few for the purpose of defence. It became necessary to disguise this weakness, and to keep the entire in one place : for this purpose the tents were pitched on one side of the river, and the men were all ordered to the other. At one o'clock, 15 large barges, crowded with men, moved toward the side opposite that on which the tents were pitched, and where there appeared the least show of resistance. These were preceded by gun-boats, to cover the landing. As soon as the boats got within the range of shot, a very successful fire was opened from the shore-battery, which compelled them to retire twice, when they stood off, and returned to their ships. Some boats, which had been deserted, were taken up by the militia ; one of the boats was 60 feet long, and could accommodate 150 men.

At day-break, on the 6th, the fleet again approached the fort. The Wolfe, and other vessels, kept up a fire for three hours against the fort and batteries. Col. Mitchell, finding that the enemy had landed about 2000 men, withdrew his small force into the rear of the fort ; and, with two companies, (Romaine and Melvin's) met their advancing columns, while the other companies engaged the flanks of the enemy.—With the aid of Lieut. Pierce, of the navy and some seamen, the little American band maintained its ground for half an hour. Col. Mitchell

then marched his force, but not precipitately, to the falls, destroying the bridges in his rear.—The enemy, although commanded by Gen. Drummond and Com. Yeo, did not think proper to pursue the colonel. They burned the old barracks, and evacuated the fort about three o'clock in the morning of the 7th.

The American loss amounted to 6 killed, 38 wounded, and 25 missing—total 69. Deserters from the enemy stated his loss to be 70 killed, 165 wounded, drowned and missing—total 235. Eight pieces of cannon, and some stores, worth about 100 dollars, fell into the enemy's hands.

On no occasion, did the Americans deserve better of their country; at no time before, did the enemy buy victory with less advantage to himself, or at a dearer price. The companies, under command of Col. Mitchell, consisted of Boyle's, Romaine's, M'Intire's, and Pierce's, heavy artillery, and a few seamen; in all, less than 300 men. Twice they repulsed, and for nearly two days maintained a contest against seven times their number, and finally succeeded in preserving the stores at the falls, the loss of which would materially impede the operations of the army and navy. The enemy carried off 60 of the unarmed inhabitants of the village, who were stated in the British report, as so many prisoners.

On the 30th May, Capt. Woolsey, of the navy, being on his return from Oswego, with 18 boats, carrying a number of cannon, and a quantity of rigging for the new vessels at Sackett's Harbor, put into Sandy Creek, about 16 miles from the Harbour. Fearing an attack from the enemy, Major Apling was placed, with 120 riflemen, and a few of the Oneida Indians, in the woods, on

each side of the creek; a few raw militia were sent forward to make a show of resistance. The plan succeeded; the militia, on the first fire from the enemy, retreated in apparent confusion, and were pursued until the entire passed the riflemen and Indians, who were in ambush. The enemy was attacked in rear, while a battery of 4 field pieces opened on him in front. The contest was not of long duration. After ten minutes fighting, the enemy surrendered. The enemy lost 2 post-captains, 4 lieutenants, of the royal navy, prisoners; 2 lieutenants of marines, wounded and prisoners; 1 midshipman, and 13 sailors and marines, killed; 28 sailors and marines wounded, and 133 sailors and marines, prisoners—total 183. 2 gun-boats and 5 barges were taken. Only one American was wounded.

On the 15th May, the enemy landed several hundred men at Pultneyville, (which is on the margin of Lake Ontario,) and took possession of 100 barrels damaged flour, which were in a store close by the lake. Gen. Swift, on hearing of the advance of the enemy, reached Pultneyville with about 130 volunteers and militia; but, deeming this force too small to oppose a numerous enemy, within range of the guns of his fleet, he did not dispute the possession of the damaged flour; but finding the enemy proceeding to other depredations, he commenced a fire on him from an adjacent wood, which wounded several and compelled him to re-embark, when a cannonade commenced from the fleet on the town, without doing material injury. A large quantity of flour was deposited about a mile from the town, which the enemy chose to forego the plunder of, rather than trust himself in the woods with Gen. Swift and his riflemen.



In this month, Col. Campbell, (19th infantry) with a detachment of 5 or 600 men, and some seamen acting as artillerists, crossed from Erie to Long-Point. About 50 British dragoons stationed there as an out-post and guard to public stores, made their escape. The mills employed in manufacturing flour for the enemy, and some houses occupied as stores, were burned. When the party returned, without losing a man.

The following transaction with the enemy's fleet on Lake Champlain, will be best explained by giving the following extract of a letter from Major-General Izard commanding the first, or division of the right, dated at his head-quarters, May 17.

"On receiving notice of the enemy's proceeding up the lake on the 13th inst. a detachment of light artillery, under the command of Capt. Thornton, of that corps, was despatched in waggons from Burlington to Vergennes, where they manned the battery at the mouth of Otter Creek. At day-break, (on the 14th) the enemy attacked with his whole force, and after a severe cannonade of two hours and a half, during which they suffered very considerably, they withdrew to repair damages. Yesterday they departed this place, having some of their vessels in tow, and are gone to their own ports. Two of their galleys are said to be missing. No damage was done on our side, excepting dismounting one gun in the battery, by which two men were slightly wounded."

The Chesapeake Bay was likely, and proved, to continue a theatre of the enemy's depredations. A number of boats, carrying heavy metal, were constructed in March, 1814, on the eastern shore of Maryland, for the protection of the bay, and the command of them given to that

intrepid officer, Commodore Barney. This *flotilla* proved a great annoyance to the enemy, was an object of his constant attention, and was finally destroyed, as will be hereafter particularly detailed.

The enemy had a skirmish on the 29th May, with the Accomack militia, which reflected the highest honour on the latter. Between 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning, the enemy entered the Pamgoteague creek. They were at first most gallantly met by 2d Lieut. Underhill, of the artillery, and 6 or 7 men, who stood the fire of their 18 pounders, grape, musketry and Congreve rockets, then within 60 yards, when Lieut. Underhill, finding all further resistance utterly useless, and not having a sufficient force to remove the artillery, caused it to be spiked, and retreated. The piece fell into the hands of the enemy, who also destroyed some trifling buildings, which had been occupied as barracks.— Finding no resistance from the point which Lieut. Underhill had occupied, they commenced their landing, and in a few minutes had from 450. to 500 men, 200 of whom were negroes, all well armed, formed, and advancing from the shore, the negroes in front. From the place of their landing, they marched about three quarters of a mile into the country, where they were met by a party of militia, not more than 25 in number.— This little band stood for two hours, the whole force of the enemy. At this time the militia began to collect, which the enemy perceiving, retreated to his ships, and thus escaped being either killed or taken prisoners. During their stay on land, the enemy committed several petty robberies and shameful excesses, carrying away bacon, poultry, clothes, &c.

Commodore Barney got under way on the 1st June, with his flotilla, in the Patuxent, with the intention to engage, or chase away the enemy. On approaching them, he discovered two schooners, one a full rigged, showing nine ports on a side. When off St. Jerome's, he discovered a large ship under way, and that she had despatched a number of boats to the aid of the schooners. The wind having veered so as to prove unfavourable to the flotilla, the commodore made signal for the Patuxent, and was followed by a 74, three schooners, and seven barges. After doubling round Cedar-Point, in the mouth of the river, he found that gun-boat No. 137, was so far astern, that she must be taken, or saved by an engagement. The commodore brought the Scorpion and gun-boat No. 138, to anchor, sent men on board the boat 137, to row and tow her in, and signaled his other vessels to return and join him. The Scorpion, and boat 138, opened a fire on a large schooner, and a number of barges, which had got ahead of the boat 137. The commodore's barges, at this time, had returned, and, rowing down on the enemy, gave them a number of shots, and then returned into port with *all* the flotilla. This bold exploit did great honour to Barney and his crews.

The enemy landed at Cedar-Point, in the evening of the 4th June, and carried off several negroes, and considerable stock from the plantation of Mr. Sewal.

The enemy's squadron, being reinforced by a razee and sloop of war, the commodore moved his flotilla up to the mouth of St. Leonard's creek. At 5, P. M. the 8th June, he perceived a ship, a brig, 2 schooners and 15 barges, coming up the Patuxent, whereon the commodore

moved his flotilla about two miles up the creek, and there moored them in line abreast, across the channel, and prepared for action. At 8 A. M. the enemy's barges came up the creek, the ship, &c. were anchored at the mouth of the creek; a *rocket barge* was advanced on the flotilla. At this time, the commodore got his barges (13 in number) under way, leaving the *Scorpion* and gun-boats at anchor, and rowed down upon the enemy, when they precipitately sailed and rowed off, with all their means. The commodore pursued them, until near their shipping, when his barges were brought back to their moorings. In the afternoon the enemy came up the creek again, threw some rockets, and were again pursued, and driven out of the creek, by the flotilla.

The situation of Commodore Barney, and his flotilla, in St. Leonard's creek, was really unpleasant and critical. He was, however, relieved, by a bold and successful attack on the enemy on the morning of the 26th June.

The following is a copy of Commodore Barney's report, to the Secretary of the navy:

"Sir—This morning, at 4, A. M. a combined attack of the artillery, marine corps and flotilla, was made upon the enemy's two frigates at the mouth of the creek. After two hour's engagement, they got under way and made sail down the river. They are now warping round Point Patience, and I am moving up the Patuxent with my flotilla. My loss is acting midshipman Asquith, killed, and ten others, killed and wounded. With respect, &c.

JOSHUA BARNEY."

In June, the enemy landed about 400 men, and burned the tobacco warehouses at Lower Marlborough, and Magruder's ferry, and also Cole's



warehouse. It is impossible, in our present limits, to detail every petty and wanton act of an unprincipled and mean enemy; where he could remove the plundered property, he removed it; what he could not remove, he destroyed. In Calvert, near Lower Marlborough, they forced away with them some negroes; also took some cattle and poultry.

A person who repaired to the scene of depredation, after the enemy had retired, wrote to his friend in Baltimore, "It would have distressed you to see the tobacco at Magruder's, burning, as I did, this evening. *Eleven hundred hogsheads*, nearly all consumed, and about *four hundred* at Lower Marlborough, where they took a schooner (Capt. David's) and loaded her."

The enemy performed one exploit, which, if not tarnished by the barbarous use he made of conquest, would have left him *one* instance of victory *not* petty.

The enemy appeared in great force in the Chesapeake, about the middle of August, 1814. More than 50 of his vessels entered the Patuxent, and landed about 5000 troops and marines, chiefly about Benedict, 40 miles southeast of the city of Washington. The force, at the disposition of Gen. Winder, who had been appointed to the command of this district, was unfortunately inadequate to defend the city, and it fell into the power of the enemy. The entire force of every description which could be collected to oppose the enemy, did not exceed 5000 men; these, however, would have been sufficient for the purpose, had they all acted with equal firmness. Of these several hundreds arrived after the battle commenced, and many after the retreat had been ordered. The force actually engaged, was less than 2000.

On the 20th, Col. Munroe, who proceeded the previous day, with Col. Thornton's troop of horse, to reconnoitre the enemy, reported that the enemy had landed in force. Capts. Caldwell and Tilghman, with their commands of cavalry, were sent in the afternoon of this day to annoy the enemy in his advance, and remove such supplies of provisions as lay in his route. On the 22d, the British flankers approached the *wood-yard*, 12 miles from the city, where Gen. Winder, with his main body, was posted.—The line of battle was formed by the American troops, but the enemy filed off to the left. At 9 o'clock, Commodore Barney caused his flotilla to be destroyed, and he proceeded with his men to take post in front of the enemy.

On the evening of the 23d, Gen. Winder's head-quarters were at *Battalion Fields*, within 8 miles of the city, and a short distance from Bladensburg. At 1 o'clock, on the 24th, the army was posted on the right of Bladensburg, about half a mile distant from the village. The artillery, from Baltimore, supported by Major Pinckney's rifle battalion, and a part of Captain Doughty's, from the navy yard, were in advance, to command the pass of the bridge at Bladensburg. Soon after 1 o'clock, the enemy appeared, advancing toward the bridge over the eastern branch. When they reached the bridge, which they did in solid column, the artillery opened a warm fire on them, and the riflemen, and a regiment of militia, were soon engaged. Before 2 o'clock, the enemy advanced so close on the Baltimore volunteers, as to force them to retreat, bringing with them their artillery and arms, except one piece, which was lost by the unruliness of the horses. The retreat was

not the effect of cowardice, for no men could behave with more honour to themselves. While they fought, they made a galling impression on the enemy, and when forced to yield before numbers vastly superior, they would, no doubt, have yet sought a place from which to triumph in a contest so handsomely began, but they were not properly supported. The right and centre of Stansbury's brigade, consisting of Lieutenant Colonel Ragan and Shuler's regiments, generally gave way, and fled in disorder, nor could they be rallied, with the exception of about 40 men, and a part of Captain Shower's company, both of whom, even thus deserted, made a gallant but ineffectual stand. Col. Ragan, in his great efforts to rally his men, was wounded and taken prisoner. The 5th Baltimore regiment, under Lieut. Col. Sterrett, being the left of Gen. Stansbury's brigade, still stood their ground, and, except for a moment, when part of them recoiled a few steps, remained firm until ordered to retreat.

The reserve, under General Smith, of the District of Columbia, with the militia, of the city and Georgetown, with the regulars, and some detachments of Maryland militia, flanked on their right by Com. Barney and his men, and Col. Beal, maintained the contest with great effect, until overpowered by numbers. Barney and his gallant men had just gained the ground from a station near the navy yard, and opened from three 18 pounders, a fire, which for the time it lasted, and considering the means, was perhaps the most destructive and active that has ever been experienced. The brave Barney fell severely wounded, into the hands of the enemy. His men fought, under his orders, un-

til the enemy reached nearly to the muzzles of the guns ; nor did they retire until ordered to do so, after every hope of victory vanished. The enemy treated the Commodore with that courtesy and attention, which his splendid merit could not fail to inspire.

The battle being now over, after continuing more than an hour, Gen. Ross who commanded the land force, and Admiral Cockburn, who commanded the seamen and marines, entered the city with a part of their forces. And now began a scene, which, in the opinion even of a savage, would disgrace the characters while living, and, after death, consign to eternal infamy, the names of these two commanders. Never will barbarism and the fate of Washington be coupled in history, without being accompanied by the names of Ross and Cockburn. The destruction of private property would be in character with the conduct which disgraced the British arms in the Chesapeake and elsewhere. The triumphant entry of the marauders into the capital of an infant republic, gave them an opportunity of proving the respect in which they held the arts, sciences, and literature. "They," to use the words of President Madison's proclamation, "wantonly destroyed the public edifices, having no relation in their structure to operations of war, nor used at any time for military annoyance ; some of these edifices being also costly monuments of taste and of the arts, and others, depositories of the public archives, not only precious to the nation, as the memorials of its origin, and its early transactions, but interesting to all nations, as contributions to the general stock of historical instruction and political science." With the public buildings, the



national library was destroyed. Cockburn attended, in person, to the destruction of the printing materials, in the office of the National Intelligencer. A few private buildings were burned. The navy-yard, with all its shipping and stores, including a new frigate and sloop of war, were destroyed, previous to its occupation by the enemy. The British army retired in the night of the 25th, in prudent hurry, and with studied silence, leaving several of their wounded behind, and some of their dead unburied. The American loss was stated by General Winder, to be between 30 and 40 killed, from 50 to 60 wounded, and about 120 taken prisoners. "From the best intelligence," says the general, "there remains but little doubt, that the enemy lost, at least, 400 killed and wounded, and of these, a very unusual portion killed."

Fort Warburton having been deserted by the U. S. troops, commanded by Captain Dyxon, and consequently destroyed by the enemy, the latter advanced towards Alexandria, the civil authority of which, submitted to the most disgraceful terms of capitulation, by which the city was given up to plunder. The enemy carried off 14 vessels, laden with flour, tobacco, cotton, groceries, and a variety of goods, taken from the private stores.

A series of the most daring exertions were made by Commodores Rodgers, Porter and Perry, with their seamen, and some of the Virginia militia, to prevent the escape of the enemy with his booty, but he got off, with some loss, taking the plunder with him. Terms, similar to those accepted by Alexandria, were offered to Georgetown, which the latter indignantly rejected, and escaped being plundered.

The enemy attempted to justify his predatory warfare in the Chesapeake, and elsewhere, by professing, that he acted in retaliation of excesses, said by him, to have been committed by the armies of the United States, in Canada.—Nothing, however, could be farther from truth. The conduct of the republican armies could, by no fair construction, justify the barbarities of the enemy, and it was well known, that the robberies and destruction of private property and buildings, particularly in the vicinity of the Chesapeake, and its tributary streams, had, in many instances, preceded those said to have been committed by the Americans.

The enemy, probably emboldened by his success at Washington, projected a descent on, and of course, the plundering and burning the city of Baltimore. The movements of the enemy having led to a suspicion of his design, General Samuel Smith, the revolutionary hero and defender of Mud-fort, made some early dispositions to repel an invasion, if such should be attempted.

Gen. Striker was detached, on the evening of the 11th September, with a portion of his brigade, on the North-point-road. Major Randal, of the Baltimore county militia, having under his command, a light corps of riflemen, and musketry, taken from General Stansbury's brigade, and the Pennsylvania volunteers, was detached to the mouth of Bear-creek, with orders to co-operate with Gen. Striker, and to check any landing which the enemy might attempt in that quarter.

On Monday, the 12th, the enemy landed between 8000 and 9000 men, at North-point, 14 miles from Baltimore, the land force under com-

mand of Gen. Ross, the seamen under Admiral Cockburn. Gen. Striker had, that morning, taken a good position at the junction of the roads, leading from Baltimore to the North-point, having his right flanked by the Bear-creek, and his left by a marsh. Here he waited the approach of the enemy, having sent on an advance corps, under the command of Maj. Heath, of the 5th regiment. "This advance," says Gen. Smith, in his report, "met the enemy, and after some skirmishing, it returned to the line, the main body of the enemy being at a short distance in the rear of their advance. Between 2 and 3 o'clock, the enemy's whole force came up and commenced the battle, by some discharges of rockets, which were succeeded by the cannon from both sides, and soon after the action became general along the line. Gen. Striker gallantly maintained his ground against a great superiority of numbers, during the space of an hour and twenty minutes, when the regiment on his left (the 51st) giving way, he was under the necessity of retiring to the ground in his rear, where he had stationed one regiment as a reserve. He here formed his brigade; but the enemy not thinking it advisable to pursue, he, in compliance with arrangements, fell back and took post on the left of my entrenchments, and half a mile in advance of them."

The following extracts, from Gen. Smith's report, will best explain the further movements of the respective armies.

"About the time Gen. Striker had taken the ground just mentioned, he was joined by Brig. Gen. Winder, who had been stationed on the west side of the city, but was now ordered to march with Gen. Douglas's brigade of Virginia militia, and the U. S. dragoons, under Capt. Bird, and take post on the left

of General Striker. During these movements, the brigades of Generals Stansbury and Foreman, the seamen and marines under Com. Rodgers, the Pennsylvania volunteers, under Cols. Cobean and Findley, the Baltimore artillery, under Col. Harris, and the maritime artillery, under Captain Stiles, manned the trenches and the batteries—all prepared to receive the enemy. We remained in this situation during the night.

“On Tuesday, the enemy appeared in front of my entrenchments, at the distance of two miles, on the Philadelphia road, from whence he had a full view of our position. He manœuvred during the morning towards our left, as if with the intention of making a circuitous march, and coming down on the Harford or York roads. Generals Winder and Striker were ordered to adapt their movements to those of the enemy, so as to baffle this supposed intention. They executed this order with great skill and judgment, by taking an advantageous position, stretching from my left across the country, when the enemy was likely to approach the quarter he seemed to threaten. This movement induced the enemy to concentrate his forces (between one and two o’clock,) in my front, pushing his advance to within a mile of us, driving in our videttes, and showing an intention of attacking us that evening. I immediately drew Gens. Winder and Striker nearer to the left of my entrenchments, and to the right of the enemy, with the intention of their falling on his right or rear, should he attack me; or if he declined it, of attacking him in the morning. To this movement, and to the strength of my defence, which the enemy had the fairest opportunity of observing, I am induced to attribute his retreat, which was commenced at half past one o’clock on Wednesday morning. In this he was so favoured by the extreme darkness, and a continued rain, that we did not discover it until day-light.

“I have now the pleasure of calling your attention to the brave commander of Fort M<sup>c</sup> Henry, Maj.



Armistead, and to the operations confined to that quarter. The enemy made his approach by water at the same time that his army was advancing on the land, and commenced a discharge of bombs and rockets at the fort, as soon he got within range of it. The situation of Major Armistead was peculiarly trying—the enemy, having taken his position such a distance, as to render offensive operations on the part of the fort entirely fruitless, whilst their bombs and rockets were every moment falling in and about it—the officers and men, at the same time entirely exposed. The vessels, however, had the temerity to approach somewhat nearer—they were as soon compelled to withdraw. During the night, whilst the enemy on land was retreating, and whilst the bombardment was most severe, two or three rocket vessels and barges succeeded in getting up the Ferry Branch, but they were soon compelled to retire, by the forts in that quarter, commanded by Lieut. Newcomb, of the navy, and Lieut. Webster, of the flotilla. These forts also destroyed one of the barges, with all on board. The barges and battery at the Lazaretto, under the command of Lieut. Rutter, of the flotilla, kept up a brisk, and it is believed, a successful fire, during the hottest period of the bombardment.”

It was impossible for veteran, or the most experienced troops, to act with more firm discipline, or cool courage, than the citizens of Baltimore, and the troops engaged, did on this occasion, with the exception already mentioned. A pursuit of the enemy was attempted, without, however, doing him much injury. The troops were so exhausted, with three days and nights fatigue, that they could do little more than pick up a few stragglers. A line of defences thrown up by the Americans from Back River to Humphries' Creek, on the Patapsco, were used by the enemy to protect his embarkation.

As a measure necessary to the taking of Baltimore, Admiral Cockburn sent, what he relied on as a competent force to take Fort M. Henry, situated on a point of land about two miles from the city. The enemy's vessels were ranged on the 12th, at a *respectable distance*, in front of the works. At an early hour, on the 12th, six bomb, and some rocket vessels, commenced the attack, but at such a distance as to have little effect. A vast many very heavy bombs and rockets were thrown from the shipping, and answered *pro forma* from the fort, the Lazaretto, battery, and barges. This noisy *play* lasted until near 3 P. M. when the enemy dropped nearer the battery. The firing now became more frequent, and soon became tremendous; but the enemy finding that the men in the fort could hit as well as fire, soon slipped their cables, and drew off to their former distance, from which they continued the bombardment.

Favoured by a dark night, one or two of the enemy's bomb-vessels, and several barges, with 1200 chosen men, passed the fort at about one o'clock in the morning of the 14th, and proceeded up the Patapsco, to attack the town in the rear, and probably with a view to effect a landing. From their new station, they commenced a very warm throwing of bombs and rockets, but were repaid with such rigour and effect, that the screams of their wounded could be heard in the midst of a roar of arms, that made the houses in the city shake, for nearly an hour and a half. About three o'clock the enemy retired, much crippled, to his former respectful distance, when he again commenced the bombardment, and continued it until day-light, when he finally withdrew. The entire duration

of the bombardment was little short of 24 hours. The loss of the enemy, on board his vessels, cannot be ascertained, but was undoubtedly great; that in Fort M'Henry was astonishingly small, consisting of 4 killed, and about 20 wounded.—Major Armistead commanded the fort. A party of Com. Rodgers' crew was posted at Fort Covington; Barney's flotilla men were stationed at the city battery.

The enemy's retreat was attended with mortification and disappointment. Gen. Ross, the destroyer of Washington, was killed; and, at least 800 men, killed, wounded, and missing.—The entire American loss did not exceed 20 killed, 90 wounded, and 47 missing.

The enemy was at Chaptico in October. The following particulars of the excesses committed at that place appeared in the Alexandria Herald, signed Robert Wright.

“ I passed through Chaptico shortly after the enemy left it, and I am sorry to say, that their conduct would have disgraced Cannibals; the houses were torn to pieces, the well which afforded water for the inhabitants, was filled up, and, what is still worse, the church, and the ashes of the dead, shared equally bad or worse fate. Will you believe me, when I tell you that the sunken graves were converted into barbacue holes !!! The remaining glass of the church windows broken, the communion table used as a dinner table, and then broken to pieces ! Bad as the above may appear, it dwindles into insignificance, when compared with what follows : the vault was entered, and the remains of the dead disturbed. Yes, my friend, the winding sheet was torn from the body of a lady of the first respectability, and the whole contents of the vault entirely deranged !!! ”

Soon after leaving Chaptico, the enemy visited St. Inigoes, in St. Mary's county, Maryland. This was the habitation of a missionary, and the scite of a Roman Catholic church. Nothing could be expected but the furniture of the priest, and plate of the church. Both were taken, feather-beds, sheets, blankets, curtains, spoons, knives, forks, &c. were taken away or destroyed; the sacred vestments were thrown about, the vessels, consecrated to the service of God, prophaned, the altar stript naked, the tabernacle carried off, and the blessed sacrament borne away in the hands of those sacrilegious wretches. Some few articles were restored at the instance of the British officer, who would probably wish to see the entire restored, but he could not command them; "they are," said he, "a set of ruffians." Some other articles, belonging to the church, were restored in a few days afterwards.

The following circumstance proves how dearly the enemy gains a victory, when opposed by a force, however small.

On the evening of the 5th November, Capt. Gordon, naval commander at Norfolk despatched 2 tenders, and 4 boats, off Black River, for the purpose of conveying several craft, then lying in that river, and bound to Norfolk. The vessels were, unfortunately, separated during the night; the boats, owing to a rough sea, returned to Norfolk. The two tenders, Franklin and Despatch, were separated from each other.

The commander of the Despatch, finding, in the morning, that he had drifted in a calm, near the enemy's ships in Lynnhaven, and that they were manning their boats, to attack him, made signal to the Franklin, and the boats ly-



ing under Old Point. The boats joined the Despatch; and the enemy's boats, after exchanging a few shots, and a breeze having sprung up, gave over the chase, and directed their attention to the Franklin, that lay nearly becalmed up the bay. The enemy came up with the Franklin, about 10, A. M. when the firing commenced. During one hour and a half, the Franklin's crew, consisting of Mr. Hammersley, master's mate, who commanded; one midshipman, (Mr. Cook;) two master's mates and pilots, and 31 men, maintained a gallant defence against a tender and 14 barges and boats of the enemy. The tender and two heavy launches, made several attempts to board, but were as often beaten off. At length, at half past 11, the Franklin was carried, being boarded at the same moment by the crews of 5 heavy boats.

The peace in Europe having relieved the ships and seamen of England from any other engagement, except the war against the United States, it was supposed, that an American ship would not dare longer to venture on the ocean, or sail on the lakes. Every American port was to be blockaded, every sea-port town to be burned or destroyed; the frames of frigates were to be transported from England, and suddenly put together, and launched on the lakes. The violent threats were heard, the expected legions looked for, with a coolness, on the part of the Americans, which evinced courage; but with a preparation that evinced a determination to defend their homes, their families, their country, and liberty.

Two armed launches and four barges of the enemy carrying about 220 men, entered Connec-

ticut river, in the evening of the 7th April, and arrived at Pettipaug-Point, about 4 o'clock in the morning of the 8th. It was quite a surprise on the few inhabitants, who had no means of resistance. They immediately landed and burned all the vessels at the wharves, and on the stocks, except a brig, a schooner, and two sloops, which they carried down the river, on their retiring, after 10 o'clock; but the wind shifting, they burned all except the schooner, and not being able to proceed, they came to anchor a short distance below Pettipaug, where they lay until night, then burned the schooner, and departed, without interruption, or any attempt to annoy them, except that a few guns were fired on them after they had passed the mouth of the river, to which they returned three cheers, and passed off.

During the 8th, the militia collected to the number of about 1000, with six field pieces; an officer, with 150 sailors and soldiers, from New-London, had also arrived. Gen. Williams, under authority of the State of Connecticut, assumed the command. Nothing seemed more easy than to capture the enemy, yet no attempt was made to do so, unless a summons to surrender can be so considered. Much censure was then attributed to the general for his dilatory conduct, and it seems not to have been hitherto accounted for. About 25 vessels were destroyed, many of them large and valuable.

Com. Hardy, of the *Ramilies* 74, addressed a letter in May, to the British agent for prisoners of war in Boston, stating that he had arrived in the bay, with an adequate force to carry the blockade into effect, and requesting him to make it known to the neutral consuls and agents in that town and state, that the blockade would be

rigorously enforced, agreeably to the proclamation for the same.

The following copy of a letter from Commodore Lewis, commanding the United States' flotilla at New-York, to the secretary of the navy, dated May 29, 1814, will show that the Yankees determined to have some trade, notwithstanding the mighty force of the enemy on the ocean.

" Sir—I have the honour to inform you, that on the 19th I discovered the enemy in pursuit of a brig under American colours, standing for Sandy-Hook.—I ordered a detachment of 11 gun-boats to proceed to sea, and pass between the chase and the enemy, by which means to bring him to action, and give opportunity to the chase to escape, all which was effected; the enemy, after receiving my fire, bore away—and the brig in question entered the harbour, proved to be the brig *Regent* from France, with a very valuable cargo. And on Monday the 23d, I engaged the enemy before New-London, and opened a passage for 40 sail of coasting vessels; the action lasted three hours, in which the flotilla suffered very little; No. 6 received a shot under water, and others through the sails—we have reason to believe that the enemy suffered very great injury, as he appeared unwilling to renew the action the following morning; my object was accomplished, which was to force a passage for the convoy. There are before New-London 3 seventy-four's, 4 frigates, and several small vessels, the latter doing great injury, from their disguised character and superior sailing. I have the honour to assure you of my high respect,

J. LEWIS.

As soon as the engagement ceased, the flotilla came to anchor before the harbour of New-London, within gun-shot of the enemy, with a view of renewing the action in the morning, when we found that the enemy had collected all his force,

in number seven ships and several small vessels, in consequence of which great accession of force, the project of renewing the action was abandoned, and signal was made to proceed up Sound, whither the enemy pursued as far as Faulkner's Island.

Capt. Sawyer, of the smack *Resolution*, from Stonington, informed, that, in the gun-boat battle, one shot passed through the mainsail of the *Sylph*, and another cut away her ensign; that one shot passed through the bow of the *Maidstone*, one through her foremast, and one into her hull; and that on the day after the engagement, a number of men from these vessels were buried on Fisher's Island.

A British squadron, consisting of a 74 gun ship, several frigates, and smaller vessels, with numerous launches, spread terror along the coast of Massachusetts, and succeeded in doing considerable injury to coasting vessels. About 200 men landed, on the 13th May, at Wareham, in Massachusetts, and burned 12 or 13 vessels, valued at about 20,000 dollars. They also set fire to a stocking factory, which was extinguished by the citizens, before much injury was done.

Capt. Allen, of the schooner *William & John*, of Sedgwick, Maine, was bound to Boston with a cargo of lumber. Capt. A. put into Dyers-creek, on the 20th May, but finding himself chased by the barge of the British schooner *Bream*, he hailed the barge, when she reached within about 50 yards, but received no answer, Capt. Allen then ordered the barge to "*keep off*." The captain, discovering the men in the barge about to fire a swivel in her bow, ordered his men to fire, and take *good aim*. Four shots were fired in succession, and the captain had ta-



ken his aim, when one of the enemy cried out, "*I'll give up to you;*" and the barge was instantly surrendered to Capt. Allen. Of seven men, who were in the barge, two were killed, and two wounded.

After the capture of the barge, the British commodore sent a flag of truce to Capt. Allen, with propositions, which were rejected. After, however, the exchange of four flags, it was agreed, that in consideration of Capt. Allen's giving up the British prisoners on parole, the commander of the Bream was to give Capt. Allen \$90 in cash, return two American prisoners belonging to Goldsborough, give up a Chebacco boat, with the property on board of her, valued at \$700, and Capt. Allen to retain the twelve eared barge, with all her armament, consisting of one swivel, six muskets, five cutlasses, six cartridge-boxes, *some blue lights*, a compass, one trumpet, and a quantity of canister and grape shot, all of which Capt. Allen values at \$300.

Soon after this transaction, a boat captured by the Bream schooner, was sent into Mount-Desert, with seven Englishmen on board, to cut out a vessel, the crew of which, on their approach, fled to the shore, and were joined by several of the inhabitants, armed—having concealed themselves among the rocks or bushes, they opened a fire on the enemy, killed three of them, wounded two, and compelled the others to surrender.

The enemy entered the harbour of Scituate, (Mass.) in June, in consequence, as he stated, of having been fired at from a signal piece of cannon, near the light-house, and set fire to several vessels.

Two barges, from the British frigate *Nymph*, went into Squam, and destroyed the schooner *Diligence*, laden with lime. The crews threatened, that if the captain attempted to extinguish the flames of the *Diligence*, they would destroy the house on the point; which being attempted, they fired a twelve pound shot through it, and returned and effected the destruction of the schooner.

On the 11th July, Eastport was taken possession of by the enemy, in the name of his Britannic majesty, and, as afterward appeared, was claimed as being part of the British territory, by the terms of the treaty of 1783. The British force consisted of 2000 men. The American garrison of 59 men, including 11 sick, was commanded by Major Putnam. The inhabitants were offered the alternative to take an oath of allegiance to the king, or to depart within seven days. A great proportion, perhaps more than two-thirds, took the oath. This place remained in the enemy's possession to the end of the war; and, as will appear by reference to the treaty of peace, was to continue in possession of the British until the dispute relative to territory could be settled by commissioners, to be appointed for that purpose.

Eastport is on an island, called Moose, on the west side of Passamaquoddy-bay; the island is about five miles long, and one mile broad, containing about 1000 inhabitants.

On the 9th August, at 5 P. M. the *Ramilies* 74, *Pactolus* 38, a bomb-ship, and a heavy brig, arrived off Stonington; and a flag was sent on shore, with a note, of which the following is a copy:

*"To the Magistrates of Stonington.*

"Gentlemen—One hour is allowed you, from the receipt of this communication, for the removal of the unoffending inhabitants.

THOMAS M. HARDY."

Stonington was in no state of defence adequate to resist the enemy. The few men in the place hastened to collect ammunition, some ran to the battery, which consisted of two 18 pounders and a four pounder, with a slight breast work; expresses were sent to New-London and other places. At eight o'clock, the attack was commenced, by a discharge of shells, from the bomb-ship, and congreve rockets from several barges. This fire was continued until midnight, without injuring a single building or inhabitant.

During the night, the volunteers and militia had assembled in considerable numbers, and were disposed of in the manner best calculated to resist any attempt of the enemy to land. At dawn of day, the enemy began to throw rockets from vessels which had taken stations on the east side of the town, out of range of the battery. An 18 and a four pounder were drawn to a point of land from which the enemy could be reached, and, in a few minutes, the barges were compelled to move off. During this time, the brig worked up and came to anchor within less than half a mile of the battery. The ammunition on shore, being expended, the few men, who were at the battery, were compelled to retire, having first spiked the guns.

For an hour and a half, the enemy continued to fire on the town, without the least opposition being attempted or practicable. A fresh supply of ammunition being, by this time obtained, the vent of the 18 pounder was drilled, when a fire

was opened on the enemy's brig, until at three o'clock, she slipped her cable, and hauled off, being evidently much injured in her hull and spars.

Soon after this time, a considerable body of militia arrived, and Gen. Isham had taken the command.

A flag was sent from the inhabitants (without the concurrence of Gen. Isham) to the British officer, informing him that the "unoffending inhabitants" had been removed, and wishing to know, if he meant to complete the destruction of the town. The deputation received from Capt. Hardy a written reply, that the bombardment should cease, in case the inhabitants would engage that no *torpedoes* should be fitted out at Stonington, and that the family of Mr. Stewart, late British consul at New-London, would be sent on board.

These terms could not be complied with.—The proposal respecting torpedoes was considered degrading, nothing of the kind having ever been attempted at Stonington; the second, respecting Mrs. Stewart and children, was referred to the proper authority.

The enemy continued to negotiate, for the purpose of getting Mrs. Stewart on board, until 3 o'clock on the 11th, when the bombardment again commenced, and was continued until night. On Friday morning, the attack was commenced and continued with great warmth, from nearly all the enemy's ships and launches, until near noon, when it ceased; and, about four o'clock, P. M. the enemy, finding that a great force were assembled, for the protection of the town, finally withdrew; and, on Saturday morning, weighed anchor, and proceeded up Fisher's Sound.



During the several attacks, not a man was killed, and but 5 or 6 wounded. Two or three houses were destroyed, 8 or 10 much damaged, and about 40 partially injured. More than 300 shells and carcasses were thrown into the village.

The additional disposable military and naval force, which the peace in Europe left at the command of the enemy, the use which he threatened to make, and did actually commence, or prepare to make of it, produced an union of action and sentiment among the people of America, some discontented or rather traitorous persons excepted, and these so comparatively few, that they excited but a sentiment of contempt, and owed their personal safety to their utter inability to do material injury. The citizens of New-York, the first commercial city in the union, gave an example of political forbearance toward each other, and of attachment to their country, which had a salutary influence on every other part of the nation.

At a general meeting held in the Park in that city, the 10th August, 1814, the following, together with several other patriotic resolutions, were unanimously adopted:

*“ Resolved, that the citizens, here assembled, will, to the last extremity, defend their city.*

*“ Resolved, that we will unite ourselves in arms with our brethren of the country, and, on the first approach of the enemy, make it a common cause.*

*“ Resolved, that it be recommended to the citizens generally, to meet as soon as may be practicable with convenience, in their respective wards for the purposes of electing discreet and sufficient committees to promote the execution of the following objects:*

“ 1. To complete the voluntary enrolment of persons, exempted by law from military service.

“ 2. To encourage the enrolment of sea-faring citizens, for services, in the harbour, or as artillerists.

“ 3. The enrolment of citizens for voluntary labour on the public works.

“ *Resolved*, that we will endeavour to promote concord and harmony, and will discountenance all attempts to weaken the patriotic efforts of good citizens.”

From this moment, party feuds were, in a great measure, suspended; newspaper editors excluded all acrimonious political discussions; the committee appointed to carry into effect the resolutions of the general meeting, was selected from the most respectable of the citizens, without the least respect to the political party to which the persons selected, belonged.

The plan of the enemy was to dismember the union. A command of the North River would tend much to this end. The possession of the city of New-York was a desirable object, in whatever point it might be viewed. The measures of defence and precaution, taken at New-York, probably prevented the intended attack on that city; the subsequent attempt to gain possession of the posts near Lake Champlain, leaves little room to doubt the enemy's intention. Had that invasion succeeded, we should have soon heard of an invasion on the sea-board, either at New-York, or some place to the eastward of it, and an attempt to form a junction of the two invading armies.

For several months, the citizens of New-York supplied more than 1000 men daily, who laboured voluntarily and without pay, at the fortifications; and several thousands from the adjacent coun-

ties, and from the state of New-Jersey, contributed their aid, until a line of fortifications were raised on the heights of Brooklyn and Harlæm, sufficient to oppose any probable force that could be employed by the enemy.—It would be impossible to do justice to the zeal that animated the citizens, and it cannot be expected to copy, or even notice the many editorial observations which appeared in the public prints; zeal overflowed, so that it became necessary to limit the offered services to a certain number daily, and it often happened, that services could not be received until several days after being tendered. The following, from the Richmond Compiler, is given, because its shortness does not actually render its insertion incompatible with our limits.

“To a patriotic mind, it is truly exhilarating, to read the New-York papers, and see the generous, ardent zeal that actuates the inhabitants of that great emporium of American commerce. At the first signal of breaking ground for the defence of the city, the whole population seem to have caught the spark of patriotic energy, to have burst the shackles of apathy, and set to the continent an example of social and public spirit, which we trust may be emulated through every part of our land. By wards and sections of the city, by *tribes and centuries*, by constituted bodies and private companies, by trades, by professions, and by domestic parties, offers of personal service and contributions in money, have been made and accepted: and that great mart of commercial wealth and enterprize, on which the enemy have so long kept a *longing* eye, is already inaccessible, invulnerable; the pride and glory, and palladium of the continent. Who would not be a citizen of New-York?”

On the 1st September, the British entered the Penobscot river, with about 40 sail of vessels,

and several thousand men, and took possession of Castine, the small garrison of which fled, after blowing up the fort. They next sent 600 men to Belfast, which submitted. The following day they proceeded up the river to Hamden, where the Adams frigate lay. Capt. Morris made every possible disposition to resist the enemy, but finding his limited force inadequate to that end, he spiked his guns, burned his stores, blew up the ship, and, with his crew, escaped. The British governor immediately announced, that the country, lying between the Penobscot river and Passamaquoddy bay, would be considered as a part of the British territory. Measures were also taken to fortify Castine, and establish permanent commercial regulations. It was estimated that 120 vessels were taken in the Penobscot.

While the enemy was coupling petty conquest with cowardice and cruelty, along the sea-board, the American army of the interior was plucking from the brows of imported invincibles the laurels won on the theatre of late European conflicts.

The brave General Jacob Brown, who had in the last year signalized himself by the defence of Sackett's Harbour, was appointed to the command of the army on the Niagara frontier.

On the 2d July, General Brown made dispositions for an intended attack on the British Fort Erie; and issued orders to the troops for crossing the river. The army passed the Niagara river on the morning of the 3d. The enemy was perfectly unapprized of the intended attack; Gen. Scott, who led the van, was on shore before the enemy's picket discovered the approach. The fort being approached on the right and left.



and the Indians in the woods, in the rear, Gen. Brown summoned the garrison to surrender, which, after a short time allowed for consideration, was agreed to. At six o'clock the garrison marched and stacked their arms; 170 regulars, including seven officers, were sent across the river.

On the morning of the 4th July, Gen. Scott, with his brigade, and a corps of artillery, advanced toward Chippewa. After some skirmishing with the enemy, he selected a judicious position for the night; his right resting on the river, and a ravine in front; at 11 at night, Gen. Brown joined him with the reserve under Gen. Ripley, and a corps of artillery, under Major Hindman—a field and battering train were also brought up; Gen. Porter arrived in the morning, with a part of the New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers, and some of the warriors of the Six Nations.

Early in the morning of the 5th, the enemy attacked the pickets; by noon he showed himself on the left of the army, and attacked one of the pickets, as it was returning to camp.—Captain Treat, who commanded the picket, retired, leaving a wounded man on the ground.—Captain Biddle, of the artillery, promptly assumed the command of this picket, led it back to the wounded man, and brought him off the field.

General Brown instantly ordered Capt. Treat to retire from the army, and advised, that his name, and that of another officer, should be struck from the roll of the army. This circumstance was noticed in a note to the first edition of this work, without the following necessary addition, which did not, and could not, have then come to the knowledge of the compiler.

Capt. Treat demanded a court of inquiry; it was not granted; but a Court Martial was ordered at Fort Erie. The left division of the army marched to Sackett's Harbour soon after, and the court was dissolved.

Capt. Treat immediately proceeded to Sackett's Harbour, by permission from Maj. Gen. Izard, and requested another Court Martial. Maj. Gen. Brown, on the 5th of April, 1815, after the repeated solicitations of Capt. Treat, issued an order, organizing a court, consisting of Col. M'Feely, president; Lieut. Col. Smith, Maj. Croker, Maj. Boyle, Maj. Mullany, Maj. Chane, Capt. White, members; Capt. Seymour, supernumerary; Lieut. Anderson, 13th regiment, judge advocate.

The court met, and proceeded on the trial the 6th April, 1815, at Sackett's Harbour. They closed the investigation on the 8th May, when Capt. Treat was honourably acquitted.

The following is a copy of the decision of the court:

"After mature deliberation on the testimony adduced, the court do find the accused JOSEPH TREAT, of the 21st infantry, not guilty of the charge or specifications preferred against him, and do honourably acquit him."

The sentence of the court was approved by Maj. Gen. Brown, and promulgated on the 28th June, at Sackett's Harbour.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon Gen. Porter advanced with the volunteers and Indians, in order to induce the enemy to come forth.-- Gen. Porter's command met the light parties of the enemy in the woods. The enemy was driven, and Porter pursued until near Chippewa, where he met their whole column, in order of battle.

The heavy firing induced a belief that the entire force of the enemy was in motion, and prepared for action. Gen. Scott was ordered to advance with his brigade, and Towson's artillery. The general advanced in the most prompt and officer-like manner, and, in a few minutes, was in close action with a superior force of the enemy. By this time, Gen. Porter's command had given way, and fled in disorder, notwithstanding the great exertions of the general to rally them. This retreat left the left flank of Gen. Scott's brigade greatly exposed. Captain Harris was directed, with his dragoons, to stop the fugitives, behind the ravine, fronting the American camp. Gen. Ripley, with the 21st regiment, which formed part of the reserve, passed to the left of the camp, under cover of the wood, to relieve Gen. Scott, by falling on the enemy's right flank, but, before the 21st could come into its position, the line commanded by Gen. Scott, closed with the enemy. Maj. Jessup, commanding the left flank battalion, finding himself pressed in front and flank, and his men falling fast around him, ordered his battalion to "*support arms, and advance*;" the order was promptly obeyed, amidst the most deadly and destructive fire. Having gained a better position, he poured on the enemy a fire so galling, as caused them to retire. The enemy's entire line now fell back, and continued to retreat, until at the sloping ground, descending toward Chippewa, when they broke, and fled to their works.

Gen. Brown, finding the pursuit of the troops checked by the batteries of the enemy, ordered up his ordnance, in order to force the place, by a direct attack, but was induced, by the re-

port of Maj. Wood, and Capt. Austin, who reconnoitered the enemy's works, the lateness of the hour, and the advice of his officers, to order the forces to retire to camp. The American troops, on no occasion, behaved with more gallantry than on the present. The British regulars suffered defeat from a number of men, principally volunteers and militia, inferior in every thing but courage, to the vanquished enemy; and the gallant Brown, a woodsman, "a soldier of yesterday," put at defiance the military tactics of the experienced Maj. Gen. Riall.

The following is a copy of a letter, written by Gen. Brown, on the field of battle, directed to the secretary of war.

"Sir—Excuse my silence. I have been much engaged. Fort Erie did not, as I assured you it should not, detain me a single day. At 11 o'clock, on the night of the 4th, I arrived at this place with the reserve, General Scott having taken the position about noon, with the van. My arrangements for turning and taking in the rear the enemy's position east of Chippewa, was made, when Major General Riall, suspecting our intention, and adhering to the rule, that it is better to give than to receive an attack, came from behind his works about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of the 5th, in order of battle. We did not baulk him. Before 6 o'clock his line was broken, and his forces defeated, leaving on the field four hundred killed and wounded. He was closely pressed, and would have been utterly ruined, but for the proximity of his works, whither he fled for shelter. The wounded of the enemy, and those of our own army must be attended to. They will be removed to Buffalo. This, with my limited means for transportation, will take a day or two, after which I shall advance, not doubting but that the gallant and accomplished troops I lead, will break down all oppo-



sition between me and Lake Ontario, when, if met by the fleet, all is well—if not, under the favour of heaven, we shall behave in a way to avoid disgrace.”

The battle of Bridgwater, fought on the 25th July, was bloody, and well contested on both sides. The enemy was composed of 5000 men, of the best troops, commanded by Gen. Riall, and others, the best British officers. It is due to them to record, that they fought well, but they fought against freemen, and were defeated. Opposed to the bravest slaves in the world, of equal force, this British army would have conquered. The Americans were fewer in number than the enemy; they were men, most of whom had yet to learn military tactics, but who had a *country*, now staked in a contest, which the present battle might materially effect, or, in its consequence, decide.

On the 25th, Gen. Brown's army was encamped above Chippewa, near the battle ground of the 5th. The brigade under Gen. Scott, moved past Chippewa, and halted at Bridgwater, in view of Niagara falls. At half past 4, P. M. the battle was commenced by the enemy. The enemy, being numerically superior to the Americans, he was able to extend his line so as to attempt to flank. In order to counteract the apparent view of Gen. Riall, he was *fought in detachments—he was charged in column*, Gen. Scott being at the head of his troops in almost every charge. General Scott maintained his ground for more than an hour, before the reserve under Gen. Ripley, and the volunteers, under Gen. Porter, were brought fully into action. The ground was obstinately contested until 9 o'clock in the evening, when Gen. Brown decided to storm a battery, which the enemy

had on a commanding eminence. Col. Miller commanded on this enterprize, which was so resolutely entered on, that the enemy, unable to withstand the charge, retired to the bottom of the hill, and abandoned his cannon. The enemy now gave way, and was pursued some distance. The American army then betook itself to the securing of prisoners, and bringing off the wounded.

While the army was thus employed, General Drummond arrived with a reinforcement to the enemy, when he, unexpectedly to the Americans, renewed the battle, with a view to recover his cannon. The army, having quickly formed, resisted the attack with courage; and, after a close engagement, the enemy was repulsed, as he was in two other similar attempts. The American army having effected the removal of nearly all the wounded, retired from the ground a little before midnight, and returned to camp.

The warmth and zeal with which this action was maintained, was the most obstinate and determined. For two hours, the discharge of musketry was so constant, as to produce almost an uninterrupted blaze of fire; nor was it in any period of this action, much less warm. Wellington's "invicibles" had just arrived from Europe, and Drummond resolved that they should not only maintain their character, but maintain it in a manner that would make the most desponding impression on the brave, but raw recruits of the republic. The Americans not only withstood the onset, but repelled and punished it. A fine moon-light night favoured equally the operations of both armies; they fought too near to render cannon generally ser-

viceable, being often within half pistol shot of each other, and sometimes mingled together.—The charge of Col. Miller exceeded any thing experienced by the British soldiers, even in Europe. Thrice his men were repulsed with great slaughter. For a time he was deserted by a regiment of infantry; they were rallied; a fourth charge was made, and succeeded. The Americans could not be driven, nor withstood; determined not to be overthrown, even by superior numbers, they seemed resolved to crush whatever foe opposed them. Had they been conquered, they would yet deserve honour; as victors, they covered themselves with glory.—They lost a howitzer; the rider being shot off, the horses carried it full gallop into the ranks of the enemy; they also lost a piece of cannon, which was too much advanced, and from which, the men, except two, were shot. For want of horses, they were compelled to leave to the enemy most of the cannon which were taken from him, with such bravery, and at such expence.

On the morning after the battle, the Americans, under Generals Ripley and Porter, reconnoitered the enemy, who did not show any disposition to renew the contest, and then burned the enemy's barracks and a bridge at Chippewa after which they returned to Fort Erie.

The enemy was believed to have lost between 1200 and 1300 men, including Maj. Gen. Riall, who was wounded, and, with 18 other officers, and 150 non-commissioned officers and privates, taken prisoners. The Americans lost 1 major, 1 adjutant, 5 captains, 4 subalterns, 10 sergeants, 10 corporals, 140 privates—total killed, 171.—1 major-general, 1 brigadier-general, 2 aids-de-camp, 1 brigade-major, 1 colonel, 1 lieutenant-

colonel, 4 majors, 1 adjutant, 3 quarter-masters, 1 pay-master, 7 captains; 32 subalterns, 517 non-commissioned officers and privates—total wounded, 572 ; missing, 117—total, 860.

The British force engaged, amounted by their own confession, to 4500 men, mostly or wholly regulars, beside a host of Indians ; the American force did not exceed 2800 men, consisting in a great proportion of the militia of Pennsylvania and New-York. Gen. Brown, in his official report, particularly notices the brave and prudent conduct of Generals Ripley, Porter, and Scott ; Colonels Miller, Dobbin, of New-York, Wileox, and Gardener ; Majors M<sup>c</sup>Farland, Hindman, Jessup, Wood, of the Pennsylvania militia, Jones, M<sup>c</sup>Ree, and Wood, of the engineers ; Captains Towson, Ketchum, Biddle, and Ritchie ; Lieut. E. B. Randolph ; Aids-de-Camp Worth, Smith, Austin, and Spencer. Some of these brave men fell in action, and nearly all of them were covered with wounds.

Gen. Brown received two wounds, but continued to command until the action ended. The general was obliged, by the severity of his wounds, to retire from the command, which devolved on Gen. Ripley, Gen. Scott being also disabled, by wound, from continuing in command.

The army continued on the Canada side, seemingly resolved to maintain itself against an enemy, which was receiving frequent reinforcements, and had, after a little time, become formidable, in numbers and equipments.

The enemy, after recovering the effects of the battle of Bridgwater, moved up toward the American army, at Fort Erie ; and frequent skirmishes ensued, in which the enemy was gen



erally worsted. On the 3d August, about 500 regulars, under Col. Tucker, crossed below Black Rock, but were met by 200 riflemen, and a party of volunteers, under Major Morgan; and, after a long contest, were defeated, and compelled to re-cross the river. Brigadier General Gaines, arrived at Erie the 4th August, and assumed the command, during General Brown's illness.

On the 15th August, the enemy, under the immediate command of General Drummond, attempted to storm Fort Erie; the result was communicated in a letter from General Gaines, to the secretary of war, of which the following is a copy:

“Head-Quarters, Fort Erie, U. C.

Aug. 15, 7 A. M. 1814.

*Dear Sir*—My heart is gladdened, with gratitude to heaven, and joy to my country, to have it in my power to inform you that, the gallant army under my command, has this morning beaten the enemy, commanded by Lieut. Gen. Drummond, after a severe conflict of three hours, commencing at two o'clock, A. M. They attacked us on each flank—got possession of the salient bastion, of the old Fort Erie, which was regained at the point of the bayonet, with a dreadful slaughter. The enemy's loss, in killed and prisoners, is about 600; near 300 killed. Our loss is considerable, but I think not one-tenth as great as that of the enemy. I will not detain the express to give you the particulars. I am preparing my force to follow up the blow.”

The assault was of that desperate nature, that was calculated to rub away the stains of former defeats, to resuscitate the sinking charms of an assumed invincibility, and save the British general from contempt, and perhaps, disgrace. The

projection was grand; the means of accomplishing it, great, and relied on for its efficiency; the attempt to execute, was supported with an enthusiasm in the officers, and a mechanical obedience in the men, which promised, and almost secured success. The invincibles were, however, destined to experience another defeat; and the Americans added another wreath to the laurels with which they were already so plentifully blessed. The enemy was largely supplied with the means generally used on such occasions, pikes, bayonets, spears, scaling ladders, &c. Repulsed and repulsed, he rallied and returned to the attack; he carried a bastion, and, by his conduct, evinced, what was to be the fate of the republicans, if vanquished. Lieut. M'Dougal, being severely wounded, in defending the bastion, demanded quarter, it was refused. Gen. Drummond crying out, "give the damned Yankees no quarter." M'Dougal defended himself until shot down by a pistol. The bastion was re-taken by the greatest display of courage and exertion.

This assault was preceded by a cannonade and bombardment, which commenced at sun-rise on the morning of the 13th, and continued until 8 o'clock, P. M.; was re-commenced on the 14th, at day-light, and continued until night—the assault was commenced at half past two on the morning of the 15th. The result was the defeat of the assailants, accompanied with a loss of 222 men killed, 174 wounded, and 186 prisoners—total 582, exclusive of a number (supposed 200) killed in the water, and carried off by the current. The Americans lost 26 killed, 91 wounded, and 11 missing—total 128.

The enemy continued in the neighbourhood of Fort Erie, strengthening and extending his

works and calling in reinforcements, with a view to the ultimate occupation of the fort, and the capture or destruction of the garrison. The enemy's works were constructed in a field surrounded by woods. Their infantry was formed into three bridges of about 1500 men each. One of these brigades, with a detail from their artillery, was stationed at their works (these being but 500 yards distant from Old Fort Erie, and the right of General Brown's line.) The Americans had already suffered much from two of the enemy's batteries; and a third was about to be opened. Gen. Brown, having recovered of his wounds, resumed the command, on the 2d September. The situation of the army was extremely critical. As the only mode of relieving himself, he determined to storm the batteries, destroy the cannon and roughly handle the enemy's brigade on duty, before those in reserve would be brought into action.

The enemy's works were very strong, regular, and executed with a studied intricacy, consisting of a breast-work, connecting their batteries, and of successive lines of entrenchments in the rear, covering the batteries and enfilading each other; and the whole obstructed by abbatis, brush, and felled timber. It was calculated to resist, and throw into confusion, the most experienced assailants, and led to many severe contests with the bayonet.

Directions were given, by General Brown, to march at noon, on the 17th September, to the intended assault. General Porter commanded a detachment of volunteers, riflemen, regular infantry, and a few dragoons. These moved from the extreme left of the American position upon the enemy's right, by a passage opened through

the woods for the occasion. Gen. Miller stationed his command in the ravine between Fort Erie and the enemy's batteries, by passing them by detachments through the skirts of the wood.—The 21st infantry, under Gen. Ripley, was posted as a corps of reserve, between the new bastions of Fort Erie. "About 20 minutes past 3 P. M." says Gen. Brown, in his official report, "I found the left column, under the command of Gen. Porter, which were destined to turn the enemy's right, within a few rods of the British entrenchments. They were ordered to advance and commence the action. Passing down the ravine, I judged, from the report of musketry, that the action had commenced on our left; I now hastened to Gen. Miller, and directed him to seize the moment, and pierce the enemy's entrenchments, between batteries No. 2 and 3.—My orders were promptly and ably executed.—Within 30 minutes after the first gun was fired, batteries No. 3 and 2, the enemy's line of entrenchments, and his two block-houses, were in our possession. Soon after, battery No. 1 was abandoned by the British. The guns in each were spiked by us, or otherwise destroyed, and the magazine of No 3, was blown up."

The enemy's loss exceeded, from the most probable account, 1000 men, including 2 majors, 4 captains, 4 lieutenants, 1 ensign, one assistant-surgeon, 4 staff-sergeants, 19 sergeants, 17 corporals, 1 drummer, and 332 privates. The Americans lost in killed, wounded and missing, 511. General Davis, of the militia, was killed. The action lasted more than two hours, and was warmly contested for about one hour. In the course of the action, the entire of the enemy's force was brought into action, consisting princ-



pally of regulars under command of Lieut. Gen. Drummond. So satisfied was the British general of his inability to contend, even aided by his veterans, against the raw soldiers that formed the American army, that he broke up his camp, during the night of the 21st, and retired to his entrenchments behind the Chippewa. "Thus," says General Brown, "one thousand regulars, and an equal portion of militia, in one hour of close action, blasted the hopes of the enemy, destroyed the fruits of 50 days labour, and diminished his effective force, one thousand men at least."

An expedition under the command of Lieut. Col. G. Croghan, was set on foot in July, 1814; the chief object of which, was the reduction of Fort Mackinac, which had been taken by the enemy in the early part of the war. The expedition left Fort Gattroit (head of Straits St. Clair) on the 12th. Owing to a want of pilots acquainted with the unfrequented part of the bay, the intended course of the vessels was somewhat altered; they anchored at St. Joseph's on the 20th. After setting fire to the fort of St. Joseph, which seemed not to have been recently occupied, a detachment of infantry and artillery, under Major Holmes, was ordered to Sault, St. Mary's, for the purpose of breaking up the enemy's establishment at that place. A few hours before the arrival of Major Holmes at the Sault, St. Mary's, the northwest agent was apprized of his approach, and succeeded in escaping with a large quantity of goods. A large quantity were, however, found secreted in the woods, on the American side.— These were claimed by the agent of John Johnson, an Indian trader; but Major Holmes declined giving them to Mr. Johnson, "because,"

as Major Holmes observed in his letter to Lieut. Col. Croghan, "it was good prize by the maritime law of nations, as recognized in the English courts, (witness the case of Admiral Rodney adjudged by Lord Mansfield.) Further, because Johnson has acted the infamous part of a traitor, having been a citizen and a magistrate of the Michigan territory, before the war and at its commencement, and now discharging the functions of magistrate under the British government. *Because*, his agents armed the Indians from his store-house at our approach; and lastly, because, those goods, or a considerable part, were designed to be taken to Michilimackinac."

The expedition reached Michilimackinac on the 26th, where the enemy was found so strongly posted on a height, overlooking the old fort, that his reduction by storm, with the small force under Col. Croghan, seemed very doubtful. It was the colonel's wish, at all hazards, to disembark in some favourable position, from which he might be able to annoy the enemy by gradual and slow approaches, under cover of his artillery, and where, by fortifying himself, he might force the enemy to attack him in his strong position; or draw his Indians and Canadians (his most efficient and only disposable force) from the island.

Being informed, by old residents of the island, where a favourable position might be obtained, he effected a landing on the 4th August, and advanced to the field where an encampment was intended, when he received intelligence that the enemy was ahead, of which he was soon convinced, by a discharge of shot and shells from a battery of 4 guns. The colonel, hereon, chang-

ed his position, (which was then two lines, the militia forming the front,) by advancing Major Holmes's battalion on the right of the militia, thus to outflank him, and by a rigorous effort to gain his rear. Before this movement could be executed, a fire from some Indians, posted in a thick wood, proved fatal to Major Holmes, and severely wounded Captain Desha, the next in rank. This misfortune threw that part of the line into confusion, from which it was found impossible to recover it. As the only method left of annoying the enemy, Col. Croghan ordered a charge to be made on his front by the regulars. The enemy was thus driven back into the woods, from which an annoying fire was kept up by the Indians. Lieut. Morgan brought up a light piece to relieve the left which was suffering from a galling fire; the excellent practice of this piece brought the enemy to fire at a longer distance.

Col. Croghan finding the position, from which the enemy was driven not tenable, he determined not to continue to expose his men to a danger, from which no good result could be expected.—He therefore ordered a retreat to the shipping.

Sailing-master Champlin, whose vessel, the *Tigress*, fell into the hands of the enemy, and who, with his crew, were prisoners at Michilimackinac, arrived at Erie in November. Capt. Arthur Sinclair, commanding the United States' naval force on the upper lakes, states, in a letter to the secretary of the navy, on the authority of sailing-master Champlin, that "the conduct of the enemy to our prisoners (the crew of the *Tigress*) thus captured, and the inhuman butchery of those who fell into their hands, at the attack of Mackinack, has been barbarous beyond a pa-

parallel. The former have been plundered of almost every article of clothing they possessed; the latter had their hearts and livers taken out, which were actually cooked and feasted on by the savages, and that too in the quarters of the British officers, sanctioned by Col. M'Dougall."

The British army, under Gen. Drummond, being considerably reinforced, there appeared an absolute necessity to strengthen that under Gen. Brown, and to make such a diversion or co-operation, as would draw off the enemy from the neighbourhood of Fort Erie, or compel him to surrender. A vigorous attack on Kingston must, if made, produce the first of these effects; the throwing of a large force into the rear of Gen. Drummond, might have the latter effect. Gen. Izard marched from Plattsburgh, about the 1st September, with a large force, which formed a junction with Gen. Brown, about the 12th October; thus having, unfortunately, occupied more than 40 days in performing a journey of 253 miles by land, and a voyage of 90 miles by water—total distance from Plattsburgh to Black Rock, 343 miles.

The slow movement of Gen. Izard's army, gave to the enemy the time necessary to equip the new ship *St. Lawrence*, of 90 guns, lately built at Kingston. The British fleet, with this big ship, appeared off Niagara, the 2d November, and gave to the enemy the command of lake Ontario, by which Gen. Drummond could be reinforced or taken off, if necessary. It also enabled the enemy to threaten Sackett's Harbour; and Gen. Brown was ordered to the defence of the Harbour, leaving Gen. Izard in command at Erie.



The campaign in the neighbourhood of Niagara must, from the lateness of the season, be drawing to a close; it appeared to Gen. Izard, that his army could not remain in safety at Erie, the fort was therefore destroyed, and the army crossed to Buffaloe, where it took up winter quarters.

The army left at Plattsburgh, after the march of Gen. Izard, was very weak; the command devolved on Gen. Macomb. The enemy embraced this opportunity for making an incursion into the state of New-York, on the side of Lake Champlain, with a view to secure a strong position at Crown Point, or Ticonderoga, previous to going into winter-quarters; and, ultimately, to co-operate with an army, that was to invade the state of New-York, or Connecticut, on the sea-board; and thus effect the great object of the British government, the political separation of the eastern from the southern states.

General Sir George Prevost, commanded the British land forces, destined for this service, consisting of four brigades, each commanded by a major-general of experience; a light squadron of dragoons, and an immense train of artillery, and all the engines of war; the entire amounting to 14,000 men. While the troops advanced by land, the fleet, apparently superior to the American, advanced by water. To resist this overwhelming force, Gen. Macomb had but 1500 effectives. In aid of this small force, the militia was hastily assembled.

The British governor-general entered the territory of the United States, on the 1st September, 1814, and fixed his head-quarters at the village of Champlain; from which, he commenced an attack, by promises and threats, on the citizens

of the United States, previous to the more serious attacks which were to be simultaneous by land and water, and were effectually to overthrow all opposition on both.

On the 2d, the British army marched from Champlain; on the 5th, it appeared, in full force, before the village of Plattsburgh. No sooner was the intention of the enemy discovered, than the militia was called out: those of the county of Clinton assembled on the 2d September, near the village of Chazy, where they took a position, under command of Lieut. Col. Miller. On the following day, Gen. Wright took a position, with his brigade, seven miles in advance of Plattsburgh. On the advance of the enemy, Col. Appling, who was placed with his command on the lake road, fell back to Dead-creek, where he posted himself, and impeded the approach of the pursuers so much by blocking up the passage, that the enemy was compelled to alter his course toward the Beekmantown road. On the morning of the 6th, the advance of the enemy attacked the militia, about 700, under General Meoers, and a small detachment of regulars commanded by Major Wool. Unfortunately, a part of the militia broke and fled, the remainder, together with the regulars, made a bold and masterly opposition, retiring slowly and regularly before a large force for six miles, when they were reinforced within a mile of Plattsburgh by a Captain Leonard and a few men with two pieces of artillery. This force, by taking advantage of the cover of a stone wall, made a stand and checked the progress of the enemy, until overpowered by superior numbers, it retired, as before, slowly, dealing death among the enemy, until it reached the south bank of the Saranac, where the

pursuit of the enemy was effectually checked, and he forced to retire. From this time until the morning that was to decide the fate of Plattsburgh and perhaps of Albany, continual skirmishing was kept up, each party preparing itself for the bloody conflict. The enemy occupied an extent of about three miles, he erected seven heavy batteries and fully supplied himself with all the usual means of attack. The Americans were engaged in annoying the enemy and strengthening their own works. The 11th was fixed on for the attack by land and water. At 9 o'clock in the morning of that day, the enemy's flotilla on Lake Champlain, passed Cumberland-head. It consisted of 1 frigate of 32 guns, 1 brig of 22 guns, 2 sloops of 10 guns each, and several galleys. The American fleet lay in Cumberland bay, opposite Plattsburgh. The enemy, superior in vessels, guns, and number of men, advanced with that confidence, which his superiority of force, inspired; and the bloody conflict began. Com. Thomas Macdonough commanded the American flotilla. Undaunted, he waited the attack, trusting in the heroism of a little band, which seemed determined to conquer, or die. For two hours and fifteen minutes, the contest was maintained, with an obstinacy which, while it added to, or rather perfected the renown already acquired by the American seamen, did not disgrace the vanquished. Modesty seems to be a quality highly possessed by the naval commanders in the United States. The following laconic letter, written to the secretary of the navy, by Com. Macdonough, is at once a proof of modesty, and a notice of success.

"The Almighty has been pleased to grant us a signal victory on Lake Champlain, in the capture of

one frigate, one brig, and two sloops of war, of the enemy."

The American galleys were about pursuing those of the enemy, that were making their escape, but, it being discovered, that all the vessels were in a sinking state, it became necessary to annul the signal to chase, and order the men from the galleys to the pumps. "I could only," observed Com. Macdonough, "look at the enemy's galleys going off in a shattered condition, for there was not a mast in either squadron that could stand to make sail on; the lower rigging being nearly all shot away, hung down as though it had been just placed over the mast-heads."—"The Saratoga," continued the commodore, "had *fifty-five* round shot in her hull; the *Confiance*, (enemy's vessel) *one hundred and five*."

The following is a comparative view of the number and strength of the vessels engaged, and the loss on board them.

## AMERICAN.

	<i>Guns. Men. Killed. Wounded.</i>			
Ship Saratoga	26	210	23	29
Brig Eagle	20	120	13	20
Schooner Ticonderoga	17	110	6	6
Sloop Preble	7	30	2	0
Ten Gun-Boats	16	350	3	3
	—	—	—	—
Total	86	820	52	58

## BRITISH.

Frigate Confiance	39	300	50	60
Brig Linnet	16	120	20	30
Chub (formerly Growler)	11	40	6	10
Finch (formerly Eagle)	11	40	8	10
Thirteen Gun-boats	18	550	0	0
	—	—	—	—
Total	95	1050	84	110



At the same hour that the fleets engaged, the enemy opened his batteries on the American forts, throwing hundreds of shells, balls and rockets; and attempted, at the same time, to cross the Saranae river, at three different points, to assault the American works. At the upper ford, he was met by the Vermont volunteers and New-York militia. Here a most interesting conflict took place; on the one side, the best troops of Britain, led on by her most consummate officers, men and officers selected from those soldiers, who, under command of the Duke of Wellington, had acquired the character of "invincible," men who had conquered in Portugal, Spain, France, and the Indies; on the other side, men not reared to arms, not used to battle, most of them born since their sires had immortalized themselves in combat on this same ground, the descendants of the "Green Mountain-boys" and of those heroes who conquered at Saratoga, &c. The object of contest was great; on it was, probably, to hang every future event of the war. The enemy fought for the recovery of a territory which would make his king the most powerful prince in the world; the officers looked to places of emolument, pensions, grants of land, titles of nobility, stars, garters, ribbands, plunder; honours and riches in a thousand shapes and forms: the honest American yeomen sought neither pay nor pecuniary reward, beyond the daily stipend of a soldier. But yesterday, they were at their ploughs, to-day, they grasped their rifles, and hurried to the threshold of their country—their ultimate reward was to be a confirmation of the liberties entailed on them by their sires, a continuance of that independence they were

determined to preserve, or not to survive. The conflict was influenced by feelings which drew forth the utmost exertions of both parties, and substituted desperation on one side, and unbending patriotism on the other, in place of that indifference or cowardice, which so often leads to disaster and disgrace. Several times were the enemy repulsed, several times did he return to the ford; astonished at this obstinate resistance, from woodsmen, suddenly assembled on the occasion, the enemy yet believed they must give way; again he advances, again he is repulsed; astonished, confounded, dismayed, he retires: no longer invincible, he acknowledges defeat—defeat from whom? Let Wellington's men answer; or let them send for a reply to the mountains of Vermont, or the wilderness of New-York. At the bridge near the village, he was repulsed by the pickets, and the brave riflemen, under Capt. Grosvenor, and Lieutenants Hamilton and Riley; and, at the bridge in the town, he was foiled by the guards, block-houses, and the artillery of the forts, served by Captains Alexander Brooks, Richards and Smith, and Lieutenants Munford, Smith and Cromwell. The enemy's fire was returned with effect from the batteries; by sun-set, seven of his newly raised batteries were silenced, and he was seen retiring to his camp. Beaten by land, and by water, the British governor-general withdrew his artillery, and raised the siege. Under favour of a dark night, he sent off his heavy baggage, and retreated with his whole army towards Canada, leaving his wounded in the field, and a vast quantity of provisions, and munitions of war, which he had not time to destroy. The light troops, volunteers and militia, pursued

him on the following day, capturing several soldiers, and covering the escape of a great number of deserters: bad weather prevented the pursuit to be continued beyond Chazy. Thus have 14,000 regulars, with the best British officers, and the best military equipment, been beaten by a regular force of only 1500 men, and 2500 militia and volunteers; the militia commanded by Gen. Moores, and the volunteers by Gen. Strong. The enemy having retired from republican ground, the militia and volunteers were dismissed.

The official return of the loss of the American regulars, amounted to 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant, 1 musician, and 34 privates, killed—total 37; 2 subalters, 1 sergeant-major, 4 sergeants, 2 corporals, 4 musicians, and 49 privates, wounded—total 62; total killed, wounded and missing, 119.

General M'Comb states the loss of the enemy on the land and lake, at not less than 2500 men.

While glory and victory attended the armies of the United States, the navy continued increasing its number of victories, and private armed vessels carried destruction to the enemy in every sea. Even in the British Channel, the enemy felt that his thousand ships of war could not bring safety to his traders. Insurance to cross the channel, rose from a few shillings to five guineas (£23,75) per cent.

In lat. 27, 47 N. lon. 80, 9, on the 29th April, 1814, the U. S. sloop of war Peacock, fell in with his Britannic majesty's brig Epervier, rating and mounting 18 32-pound carronades, with 128 men. The Epervier struck her colours after an action of 42 minutes, and the loss of 8

men killed, and 15 wounded. Two men were slightly wounded on board the Peacock. Both vessels arrived at Savannah, the prize being with difficulty kept above water. The damage suffered by the two vessels, will be seen by the following extract from the official report of Capt. Warrington.

“ This, (the disabling of a fore yard) with a few top masts, and top-gallant back stays cut away, a few shot through our sails, is the only injury the Peacock has sustained. Not a round shot touched our hull; our masts and spars are as sound as ever.— When the enemy struck, he had five feet water in his hold, his main top-mast was over the side, his main boom shot away, his fore-mast cut nearly in two, and tottering, his fore rigging and stays shot away, his bowsprit badly wounded, and 45 shot holes in his hull, 20 of which were within a foot of his water line.”

The Epervier had 120,000 dollars in specie, on board.

The United States' sloop of war Frolic, Joseph Bainbridge commander, was captured, after a chase by H. B. M. *frigate* Orpheus, of 36 guns, on the 20th April. A court of inquiry, held on board the U. S. *frigate* Constitution, at New-York, the 20th April, 1815, gave their opinion, “ that the same was not lost, through the fault, inattention or negligence of Captain Bainbridge.” The court also reported favourably on the conduct of the officers and crew of the Frolic.

His Britannic majesty's sloop of war Reindeer, was captured the 28th June, 1814, in lat. 48, 36 N. and lon. 11, 15 W. by the U. S. sloop of war Wasp, Capt. J. Blakely. The action commenced at 26 minutes after 3 P. M.; at 45



minutes past 3, the enemy was carried by boarding. The action, for the short time it lasted, was severe, and both vessels and crews suffered considerably. The loss on board the *Wasp*, was principally occasioned by repelling the enemy, in two attempts which he made to board. The *Reindeer* mounted 16 24-pound carronades, 2 long 6 or 9-pounders, and a shifting 12-pound carronade, with a complement of 118 picked men, called, from their appearance, the "pride of Plymouth." The *Reindeer* was literally cut to pieces, and so complete a wreck, in both hull and rigging, that it was found necessary to destroy her. Her commander, (William Manners, Esq.) and 22 petty officers and seamen, were killed; wounded dangerously, 10; severely, 17; slightly 15—total killed and wounded, 75.

On board the *Wasp*, there were 5 killed, and 21 wounded. Six round shot struck the hull of the *Wasp*; a 24-pound shot passed through the fore mast, and a considerable number of grape struck, but did not penetrate her sides. The *Wasp* arrived at L'Orient the 8th July.

The *Wasp* sailed from L'Orient on the 27th August. At half past 9 o'clock, P. M. the 1st September, engaged a vessel, supposed to be a large brig of war, and forced her to strike her flag, at 12 minutes past 10. In a few minutes, Capt. Blakely discovered another brig, and prepared for action; at 36 minutes past 102 brigs, in sight, when the *Wasp* was compelled to relinquish her prize. The *Wasp* lost 2 men killed, and had 1 man wounded. The enemy, after his surrender, was heard, asking assistance, and said he was sinking. The enemy's vessel proved afterwards to be the *Arion*. By the British details, it was acknowledged, that the

two vessels, which came in aid of the *Avon*, were the *Castilian* and *Tartarus*, each of them of force equal to the *Wasp*. The *Avon* went to the bottom, after the surviving part of her crew was removed on board the other British vessels. The *Avon* was in the *Delaware* in 1810; she then carried 18 32-pound carronades, besides bow and stern guns.

The *Essex*, Capt. Porter, the smallest frigate in the American navy, was destined to prove immensely injurious to the enemy. Her cruise in the Pacific ocean has supplied ample materials for an interesting volume. Capt. Porter not only protected the American shipping against the numerous letters of marque, which the enemy had sent into those seas, but rendered these very letters of marque tributary to his plan of destroying the enemy's trade, particularly in the fisheries.

Capt. Porter sailed from the *Delaware*, the 27th October, 1812. On his passage to Rio de Janeiro, he captured the British packet *Norton*, and took out of her 11,000 pounds sterling, in specie. He arrived at Valparaiso on the 14th March, 1813, where he obtained a full supply of provisions. He then ran down along the coast of Chili and Peru, fell in with a Peruvian corsair, which had on board 24 Americans, the crews of two whale ships she had captured on the coast; he threw the guns and ammunition of the corsair into the sea, liberated the Americans, and afterwards re-captured one of the vessels, as she was entering the port of Lima.

From Lima, Capt. Porter proceeded for the Gallipagos Islands. While among this group of islands, he captured the following British

ships, (letters of marque) employed chiefly in the Spermaceti whale fishery.

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Guns.</i>	<i>Pierced for</i>
Montezenma	270	21	2	
Policy	175	26	10	18
Georgiana	280	25	6	18
Greenwich	388	25	10	20
Atlantic	355	24	8	20
Rose	220	21	8	20
Hector	270	25	11	20
Catherine	270	29	8	18
Seringapatam	357	31	14	26
Charlton	274	21	10	18
New Zealander	259	23	8	18
Sir A. Hammond	301	51	12	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3456	302	107	

The Atlantic received the new name of the *Essex-Junior*, was equipped with 20 guns, and her command given to Lieut. Downs.

Lieut. Downs convoyed some of the prizes to Valparaiso; and Capt. Porter on the return of Lieut. Downs, proceeded with the other prizes to the island of Nooaheevah, where he overhauled his ship, took on board a supply of provisions, and sailed for the coast of Chili, on the 12th December, 1813.

Previous to sailing from Nooaheevah, he secured his prizes under the guns of a battery, which he erected for their protection, and left the battery in charge of Lieut. Gamble, and 21 marines, with orders to proceed to Valparaiso, after a certain period. A friendly intercourse was established with the natives; and the island taken possession of, in the name of the United States. He arrived on the coast of Chili the 12th January, 1814.

The captain detailed his success in the following words :

“ I had completely broke up the British navigation in the Pacific ; the vessels which had not been captured, were laid up, and dared not venture out. The valuable whale fishery there, is entirely destroyed, and the actual injury we have done them, may be estimated at two and a half millions of dollars, independent of expenses of vessels in search of me. They have furnished me amply with sails, cordage, cables, anchors, provisions, medicines, and stores of every description ; and the slops on board them have furnished clothing for the seamen. We had, in fact, lived on the enemy since I had been in that sea, every prize having proved a well found store-ship for me. I had not been under the necessity of drawing bills on the department for any object and had been enabled to make considerable advances to my officers and crew on account of pay.”

After arriving at Valparaiso, he found himself blockaded by two British ships ; the *Phœbe*, Com. Hillyar, carrying 30 long 18-pounders, 16 32-pound carronades, 1 howitzer, and 6 3-pounders in the tops, and a complement of 320 men ; and the *Cherub*, mounting 28 guns, and having a complement of 180 men ; making, together, 81 guns, and 500 men. The force of the *Essex* was 46 guns, 40 32-pound carronades, and 6 long 12's, her crew amounted to 255 men.—The *Essex-Junior* mounted 20 guns, 10 18-pound carronades, and 10 short 6's, with only 60 men on board.

Capt. Porter having sought in vain to bring on an action with any one of the enemy, had resolved on putting to sea, in the hope of outsailing them. On the 28th of March, 1814, during a fresh blow of wind, the *Essex* parted her larboard cable, and dragged the starboard anchor



directly to sea. Finding himself in this situation, he hoisted sail, and got under way. On rounding a point of land, a heavy squall struck the ship, and carried away her main top-mast, precipitating the men, who were aloft, into the sea. Being chased by the two enemy's ships, and unable to gain his former anchorage, he ran close into a small bay, about three quarters of a mile to leeward of the battery, on the east side of the harbour, and let go his anchor, within pistol shot of the shore.

It was in this situation, that his crippled ship and reduced crew were attacked, in a neutral port, contrary to the laws of nations, by two ships of the enemy. The Essex was carried, but a prize has never been bought at a dearer rate. The action lasted nearly two hours and a half. The Cherub, from her crippled state, was compelled to haul off, but continued to fire at a distance from her long guns. The Phœbe also chose, after suffering considerably, to fire from a distance with her long guns, while the Essex could not reach him with her carronades. There never was a ship more cut up than the Essex, nor that suffered more in men. Seventy men, including officers, were all that remained after the action, capable of doing duty, and many of these severely wounded.

The enemy continued firing for several minutes, and killed and wounded many of the crew of the Essex, after her colours were struck, and an opposite gun fired, to show that resistance had ceased. Capt. Porter conceiving it was intended to refuse quarter, was on the point of hoisting his colours, and selling his life as dear as possible, when the fire of the enemy ceased. The Phœbe was so cut up, that she was, with

great difficulty worked into Valparaiso, and it seemed doubtful, even after she came to anchor, whether she could be repaired so as to enable her to double Cape Horn. She had eighteen 12-pound shot through her, below her water line. Nothing but the smoothness of the water saved her from sinking. Had the *Phœbe* and *Cherub* dared to come boldly into *close action*, they would have been undoubtedly defeated.— The enemy's loss in men cannot be ascertained, but must have been very severe. That of the *Essex* was—

Killed, and have died since of their wounds,	58
Severely wounded	39
Slightly wounded	26
Missing	31
<hr/>	
Total	154

It was agreed between Capt. Porter and Com. Hillyar, that the *Essex-Junior* should be disarmed, and employed as a cartel, to bring Capt. Porter and his men to the United States, to be there exchanged for an equal number of British prisoners of equal rank. On the 5th July, the *Essex-Junior* arrived off New-York, and was overhauled by the British ship *Saturn*. Capt. Porter, judging from the conduct of the British officer, that he would violate the terms, under which the *Essex-Junior* had sailed, took to his boat; and, after rowing and sailing 46 miles, reached Long-Island.

The winter season, rendering it difficult and dangerous for an enemy's fleet to remain on the American coast, to the northward of Virginia, it was conjectured that his blockading squadron would be moved to the southward, nor was the conjecture ill founded. It was his intention to

effect something more permanently useful, than the robbing of private property. A general alarm prevailed among the inhabitants, particularly in the cities, along the sea coast. It was also ascertained, that great preparations were making, and several thousand men collected in the West-Indies, with the avowed intention of invading some of the southern states.

At 4 o'clock, P. M. on the 15th September, 1814, Fort Bowyer, on Mobile Point, was attacked by a superior British naval and land force.—The naval force was under command of Sir H. W. Percy, and consisted of 2 ships from 24 to 28 guns, mounting 32 pound carronades; 2 brigs from 16 to 18 guns, mounting 24-pound carronades, and 3 tenders. The land forces consisted of 100 marines under command of Col. Nicholls, a body of Indians under command of Captain Woodbine, and a battery of a 12 pounder and howitzer under direction of an officer of the artillery. The American effective force was about 120 men, of whom not more than 90 were engaged.

At 4, P. M. the enemy's leading ship, called the *Hermes*, having approached sufficiently near, the guns of the battery opened upon her: at 20 minutes past 4, the engagement became general. Soon after this time, the British land forces were put to flight, by discharges of grape and cannister, from a 9 pounder. At 5, P. M. the guns of the *Hermes* were silenced, and she drifted out, and grounded within 600 yards of the battery, where she continued to be fired on, until night. At sun-set the other vessels cut their cables, and stood off, under a tremendous fire from the battery. At a quarter past 7, the

Hermes appeared to be on fire ; at 10, her magazine blew up.

It was learned, from deserters, that 150 of the crew of the Hermes were lost, that 85 were killed or wounded on board the other ship, and several on board the other vessels. The American loss was 4 killed and 5 wounded. Major William Lawrence commanded at the fort. On the 16th the enemy's fleet stood to sea.

The appearance of 50 or 60 vessels of the enemy, in the mouth of the Mississippi, rendered it almost certain, that the city of New-Orleans would be an object of attack. The advance of the enemy was announced, in general orders, on the 14th December, 1814, by Gov. Claiborne ; and, on the 18th, Gen. Jackson reviewed the militia, preparatory to meeting the enemy.— Martial law was declared on the 16th. The woodsmen from Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi Territory, and Kentucky, hastened to the scene of honour and glory ; and men, of different languages and manners, prepared to emulate each other in defence of a common country, and a liberty in which they alike participated.

On the 13th December, the enemy's flotilla gained the Pass Christian, and was proceeding ; evidently against the U. S. gun vessels, then at anchor off bay St. Louis. The gun-boats retreated, during the night, to the Malhereaux Islands, Lake Borgne, where the wind and tide forced them to remain. At day-light, on the 15th, the enemy advanced with 42 heavy launches and gun barges, mounting 42 guns, of 12, 18, and 24 calibre, and 3 light gigs, with 1200 men, commanded by Captain Locker.

At 10 minutes before 11, A. M. he commenced an attack on the flotilla, consisting of gun-



boat No. 5, 5 guns, 36 men, sailing-master Ferris; gun-boat No. 23, 5 guns, 39 men, Lieut. M'Keever; gun-boat No. 156, 5 guns, 41 men, Lieut. Jones; gun-boat No. 162, 5 guns, 35 men, Lieut. Spedden; and gun-boat No. 163, 3 guns, 31 men, sailing-master Ulrick—total, 25 guns, and 182 men; the entire under command of Lieut. Thos. Ap. Catespy Jones, of boat 156.

The sloop Alligator (tender) of one 4 pounder and 8 men, not being able to join the flotilla, was captured, before the action with the gun-boats commenced.

The gun-boats were taken in succession, and each boat, when taken, added to the enemy's line of attack. The action continued until 40 minutes past 12, when the last of the gun-boats was surrendered.

Considering the immense disproportion of the parties, the action was sustained, on the part of the Americans with a skill, bravery, and perseverance, unexampled, even in the most spirited of the actions which distinguished the American seamen in the previous part of the war. Five small vessels, and a few men, maintaining a contest for an hour and a half, against a swarm of heavy barges and gun-boats, which closed and nearly surrounded them, was a sight unparalleled in the annals of naval heroism. The loss of the enemy, in killed and wounded, was estimated by Lieut. Jones, to exceed 300, among whom were an unusual quantity of officers.

The capture of this flotilla gave to the enemy a free entrance into Lake Ponchartrain, except what resistance they might meet from a small fort commanding the passage of the Regolettes.

The enemy, having gained the command of the lakes, was enabled to effect a passage to the

Mississippi, at a point, about 9 miles from New-Orleans. General Jackson advanced against him, determined to attack him in his first position. The attack was made in the night of the 23d December, at half past seven o'clock. It was commenced by a fire from the schooner *Caroline*, which dropped down the river, in order to open on the rear of the camp. This was the signal for Gen. Coffee to fall on the right, while Gen. Jackson attacked the left near the river.—It resulted honourably to the American arms; but produced nothing decisive. The enemy's force amounted to about 3000 men; that of Gen. Jackson did not exceed 1500. The conflict lasted an hour, and was supported with great firmness. Gen. Jackson remained on the field until four o'clock in the morning, when he took a new position two miles nearer the city; having lost in this affair, 24 killed, 115 wounded, and 74 missing—total 213.

The enemy succeeded, on the 27th, in blowing up the *Caroline*, (she being becalmed) by means of hot shot, from a land battery, erected in the night. On the 28th, he advanced, with his whole force, against Gen. Jackson, in the hope of driving him from his position, and with this view opened a fire with bombs and rockets, at the distance of about half a mile. The enemy was repulsed, with a loss of about 120 men. The Americans lost 7 killed and had 8 wounded.

On Sunday morning, the 1st January, 1815, the enemy had advanced within 600 yards of the American breast works, under cover of night and a heavy fog, and had erected the preceding night, three different batteries, mounting in all 15 guns, from 6's to 32's. About eight o'clock, when the fog cleared off, they commenced a most

tremendous fire upon the Americans, but it was amply returned by them, and a heavy cannonading was kept up, without the least interval on either side, except that occasioned by the explosion of a magazine in the rear of one of the American batteries, and another magazine in the night, owing to the enemy's Congreve rockets. By four o'clock in the afternoon, the Americans had dismounted all the enemy's guns, except two. They retreated, during the night, to their strong hold, about a mile and a quarter from the American camp. Twice did the enemy attempt to storm and carry the American batteries, but were as often deceived. On New-Year's day, the loss of the Americans was 11 killed, and 23 badly wounded. That of the enemy, from the accounts of two prisoners taken on that day, and three deserters afterwards, must have been much greater.

According as the woodsmen arrived to the aid of Gen. Jackson's army, they were disposed of to the best advantage, for the purpose of defence; but these forces not being of a very efficient nature, especially as the men could not be all provided with the necessary arms, the general could not attempt any thing against an enemy, who was thus left to pursue, undisturbed, his laborious operations.

During the days of the 6th and 7th, the enemy had been actively employed in making preparations for an attack on Jackson's lines.—With infinite labour, they had succeeded on the night of the 7th, in getting their boats across from the lake to the river, by widening and deepening the canal, on which they had effected their disembarkation.

Gen. Jackson was on the left side of the river,

patiently waiting the attack. Gen. Morgan, with the New-Orleans contingent; the Louisiana militia, and a detachment of Kentucky troops, occupied an entrenched camp on the opposite side of the river, protected by strong batteries on the bank, superintended by Commodore Patterson.

On Sunday, the 8th, at 6 1-2 o'clock, A. M. the enemy began a very heavy cannonade upon the American lines, from his batteries of 18 and 12 pounders, supported by the musketry of 2500 men, who marched in close columns, and advanced nearer than musket shot distance to the entrenchments, armed with rockets, obuses, and facines, to storm the batteries: they directed their principal attack against the head of the line, flanked by the river, and upon the left resting upon the cipress swamp, as well as against the tirailleurs and riflemen, placed above the said swamp; the roaring of the guns, and firing of the musketry, lasted two hours and a quarter; the enemy's mortars, although directed against the centre, did no harm to the troops, the bursting of their bombs in the works was of no effect. Two British officers, and one French engineer, of the name of Rennie, who had gained the summit of the American parapet, (*see frontispiece,*) was killed or wounded, and made prisoners; (the engineer and one colonel was killed;) after this terrible affair, the field, in front of the works, was strewed with British wounded and killed.

Gen. Jackson thus briefly details the particulars of attack.

"In my encampment every thing was ready for action; when early on the morning of the 8th, the enemy, after throwing a shower of bombs and Con-



greve rockets, advanced their columns at my right and left, to storm my entrenchments. I cannot speak sufficiently in praise of the firmness and deliberation with which my whole line received their approach. More could not have been expected from veterans inured to war. For an hour, the fire of small arms was as incessant and severe as can be imagined.—The artillery, too, directed by officers who displayed equal skill and courage, did great execution. Yet the columns of the enemy continued to advance with a firmness which reflects upon them the greatest credit. Twice, the column, which approached me on my left, was repulsed by the troops of General Carrol, those of Gen. Coffee, and a division of the Kentucky militia, and twice they formed again, and renewed the assault. At length, however, cut to pieces, they fled in confusion from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded.”

Simultaneously with the attack on Gen. Jackson's lines, an attack was made on the works of Gen. Morgan. Had the enemy been met with resolution in this attack, it must have produced his entire destruction; but, unfortunately, the Kentucky reinforcements ingloriously fled, drawing after them, by their example, the remainder of the forces, and leaving the batteries to the enemy; not, however, until after the guns were spiked. While General Jackson was preparing to dislodge the enemy from the captured battery, the British troops were withdrawn, and the post re-occupied by the Americans.

The return of the killed, wounded, and prisoners, taken at the battle of Mac Prardies plantation, on the left bank of the Mississippi, on the morning of the 8th January, 1815, and five miles below the city of New-Orleans, consisted of—killed, 700; wounded, 1400; prisoners, 500—total 2600.

Among the slain, were General Sir Edward Packenham, the chief, and Gen. Gibbs, the third in command; Gen. Keane, the second in command, was severely wounded. Gen. Lambert succeeded to the command.

His total loss, in the different engagements, was not probably less than 3500; and was, by many, supposed to exceed 4000. The loss to the Americans, on the 8th, on both sides of the river, was 13 killed, 39 wounded, and 19 missing; total killed, wounded and missing, this day, 71; of this number there were but 6 killed, and 7 wounded, in the action of the line.

The enemy intended to pass Fort Philip, in order to co-operate with the land forces in the attack on New-Orleans. On the 9th January, at half past 3, P. M. the enemy's bomb vessels opened their fire against the fort, from 4 sea-mortars, 2 of them 13 inches, and 2 of 10, at so great a distance, that the shot from the fort could not reach him. The enemy's fire continued with little intermission, and with little interruption from the fort, during the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th. On the evening of the 17th, a heavy mortar was got in readiness, and opened on the enemy, with great effect. At day light on the 18th, the enemy retired, after having thrown upwards of 1000 heavy shells, besides small shells, from the howitzers, round shot and grape, which he discharged from boats, under cover of the night. Scarcely ten feet of the garrison remained untouched; yet the loss of men was small, consisting of 2 killed, and 7 wounded. This saving of men was owing to the great pains taken by the officers to keep their men under cover.

All the enemy's movements, after the action

of the 8th of January, were calculated to secure his retreat, should such prove necessary, as appearances then indicated that it would. Their intention was, however, masked by a menacing attitude, as if preparing for a renewal of the attack on Jackson's line. They had erected batteries to cover their retreat, in advantageous positions, from their original encampment to the Bayou, through which they entered lake Bourgne. The cannon placed on these batteries could have raked a pursuing army in every direction. The situation of the ground, through which they retired, was protected by canals, redoubts, entrenchments, and swamps on the right; and the river on the left.

In this state of things, Jackson had an opportunity of showing his prudence, as he before proved his courage, and, by uniting both qualities, perfected the general. Since the action of the 8th, the artillery, on both sides of the river, was constantly employed in annoying the enemy. An attempt to storm his batteries would have produced great slaughter among the Americans; been doubtful of success, and might possibly have induced the enemy to delay his departure. It was therefore resolved by Gen. Jackson to secure the advantage obtained, with the least possible loss or hazard.

All hope which the enemy had of reducing fort Philip, had vanished; and on the night of the 18th they precipitately decamped, and returned to their shipping, leaving behind them 80 of their wounded, 44 pieces of heavy artillery, and an immense number of ball, having destroyed much of their powder.

Mr. Shields, purser in the navy, wrote letters on the 16th and 17th of January, to Mr. Niles,

of Baltimore, containing much information, from which the following is extracted :

“ The day after the gun-boats were taken, I was sent down under a flag of truce, to ascertain the fate of our officers and men, with power to negotiate an exchange, especially for the wounded. But the enemy would make no terms—they treated the flag with contempt, and myself and the surgeon, who was with me, as prisoners, until the 18th inst. He has now lowered his tone, and begs the exchange that we offered. Defeat has humbled the arrogance of the enemy, *who had promised his soldiers forty-eight hours pillage and rapine of the City of New-Orleans !* ”

On the authority of judge Poindexter, it is stated, that “ the watch-word and countersign of the enemy, on the morning of the 8th, was **BEAUTY** and **BOOTY**. Comment is unnecessary on these significant allusions held out to a licentious soldiery. Had victory declared on their side, the scenes of Havre de Grace, of Hampton, of Alexandria, and of St. Sebastians, would, without doubt, have been re-acted at N. Orleans, with all the unfeeling and brutal inhumanity of the savage foe with whom we are contending.”

Thus ended, in disgrace and discomfiture to the enemy, an expedition which occupied several months in its preparation, and was composed of at least 10,000 troops, drawn from almost every part of the world, where the British had garrisons or soldiers. Nothing was left undone to secure the occupation of an immense province, and the command of a river extending thousands of miles through the most fertile countries in the world ; and on which several of the United States depended as an outlet and market for their produce.



That a permanent occupation of New-Orleans, and the state of Louisiana, was intended, can scarcely be doubted. The fact that revenue and other civil officers, to reside at New-Orleans, were on board the fleet, is a sufficient evidence of this fact, as well as it is of the certainty with which victory was counted on; nor is this rendered doubtful, by the circumstance, that the battle was fought after the treaty of peace was ratified by the British government. The expedition against New-Orleans was planned long before the signing of peace, and at a time when the wavering and quibbling policy of England induced the American commissioners at Ghent, to write to their government, "that no hopes of peace, as likely to result from it, (the negotiation) could be entertained."

From an official account, it appeared, that the number of men under command of General Jackson, and actually engaged against the enemy, on the 8th January, amounted to 4,698.—The enemy's force, by his own account, exceeded 10,000.

By an article in a Jamaica paper, of the 3d December, it was stated, that the expedition then prepared to go against the United States, under command of Sir Alexander Cochrane, and Maj. Gen. Keane, (the same that afterwards entered the Mississippi,) consisted of 1 ship of 80 guns, 5 of 74, 3 of 50, 1 of 44, 6 of 38, 2 of 36, 3 of 32, 3 of 16, 2 of 14, and 3 of 6 guns—Total 28; carrying 1084 guns, besides a great number of cutters, transports, &c.

On the 21st Jan. Gen. Jackson directed an address to be publicly read at the head of each of the corps composing the lines near New-Orleans. It must have been a difficult and delicate task to

do justice to individuals, where all acted so well, proving, in the general's words, "that a rampart of high minded men is a better defence, than the most regular fortification."

This address contained the following emphatical paragraph.

"Reasoning always from false principles they (the enemy) expected little opposition from men whose officers even were not in uniform, who were ignorant of the rules of dress, and who had never been caned into discipline—fatal mistake! a fire incessantly kept up, directed with calmness, and with unerring aim, strewed the field with the brave officers and men of the column, which slowly advanced, according to the most approved rules of European *tactics*, and was cut down by the *untutored* courage of the American militia. Unable to sustain this galling and unceasing fire, some hundreds nearest the entrenchments called for quarters, which was granted—the rest, retreating, were rallied at some distance, but only to make them a surer mark for the grape and cannister shot of our artillery, which, without exaggeration, *mowed down whole ranks at every discharge*; and, at length, they precipitately retreated from the field."

The following officers and volunteers are particularly noticed by the general: Generals Coffee, Carroll, Adair, De Flanjac, Villere, Morgan, Humbert, (acting as a volunteer,) Mexican; Field Marshal Don Juan de Anavar, (volunteer;) Colonels Ross, Dyer, Gibson, Elliot, M'Rea, Perry, De la Ronde, Haynes, Platt, Anderson, (killed,) and Adj. Gen. Col. Butler; Lieut. Col. Lauderdale, (killed;) Majors Hinds, Blanche, Carmae, St. Geme, Nicks, Chotard, Davis, Hampton, Tatum, Lacalliere de la Tour, and La Caste and Dagain, commanding two corps of coloured men; Captains Baker, Humphreys,

Savary, Beal, Ogden, Lewis, Livingston, Lefebvre, Planchar, Smith, Griffin, Mahon, (killed,) Pace, (killed,) and the brothers Lafitte and Dominique, and Belluche, (Barratarians;) Lieutenants McClellan, (killed,) Dupy, Spotts, Kerr, Alexis, Crawford, (killed,) and Leach; Commodore Patterson, Captain Henley, Lieutenants Norris and Growly, and Midshipman Erasmus Watkins, of the navy; Aids-de-camp Thos. D. Butler, John Reed, Livingston, Duncan, Grymes, Duplessis, and De Castera; Doctors Kerr and Flood; Judge Lewis, (volunteer;) and Messrs. Chauveau, Hiriart, Latrobe, Gilbert, Bosquet, and Decoin.

Several desperate characters, citizens of the United States, as well as foreigners, natives of different countries, had associated themselves into a band of pirates, under the chief Lafitte, and had taken up their residence in the island of Barrataria, near the mouth of the Mississippi. The government of the United States caused this unlawful establishment to be broken up. The expedition against the Barratarians, took possession of all the piratical vessels, their prizes, and a considerable quantity of arms and property, without opposition, on the 16th September, 1814. The vessels thus taken, consisted of six schooners, and one felucca, cruisers and prizes of the pirates, one brig, a prize, and 2 armed schooners, both in line of battle with the armed vessels of the pirates. The establishment on shore, which was also taken possession of, consisted of about 40 houses. The pirates had mounted on their vessels 20 pieces of cannon, of different calibres, and their number consisted of between 800 and 1000 men, of all nations and colours. The expedition against the pirates was under command

of Com. Patterson, of the navy, having on board a detachment of land troops, under command of Col. Ross.

The Barratarian pirates took part in the defence of New-Orleans, against the British, and were both active and serviceable. It was, also, satisfactorily ascertained, that they had, previous to their dispersion, refused an alliance with the British, rejecting the most seducing terms of invitation. Induced, by these considerations, and at the recommendation of the general assembly of the state of Louisiana, the President of the United States granted to such of them as aided in defence of New-Orleans, a full pardon for all offences against the laws of the United States, committed previous to the 8th January, 1815.

The enemy, after being defeated near New-Orleans, turned his attention to the state of Georgia; and, from appearances, intended a visit to Savannah. The unprepared state of Georgia, and the dreadful character of the enemy, caused a great alarm among the inhabitants of the state.

On the 11th January, 1815, the enemy, to the number of 1500 or 2000 men, effected a landing on Cumberland island. On the 13th, Point Petre was carried by storm; and, on the following day, St. Mary's capitulated, in consequence of a flag sent from the inhabitants of the town. The enemy evacuated Point Petre and St. Mary's, the 21st January, after burning the barracks, and blowing up the fort. Had the enemy attempted Savannah, he would have met a reception similar to that experienced at New-Orleans. No people ever turned out more generally, or with more alacrity, than the men of



Georgia. The militia, in every part of the state, were in motion, when the news of peace, and retreat of the enemy, reached them. While the enemy was marching against Point Petre, Capt. Massias, of the 1st U. S. rifle corps, at the head of 60 men, attempted to oppose 1000, committed considerable havoc among the enemy, and retreated, with the loss of 1 killed, 4 wounded, and 9 missing.

The fortress of Mobile, within the limits of the purchase of Louisiana, had been retained by the Spaniards, notwithstanding its purchase by the United States. The war between Great-Britain and the United States rendered it necessary to occupy this place, lest it should fall into the possession of the enemy. On the 15th April, 1813, General Wilkinson appeared before it, at the head of a respectable force; when, the garrison being summoned to surrender, the Spanish troops were immediately embarked for Pensacola; and Mobile taken possession of by the United States' troops.

Pensacola, although a Spanish post, was not properly entitled to the character of neutral.—The conduct of the Spanish governor left no doubt as to his attachment to the British, and his hostile disposition toward the United States.

Pensacola was an asylum for hostile Indians; at Pensacola, they were armed, provisioned, and paid. Pensacola was a depot of British arms, a home for traitors to the United States, and a place of rendezvous for every ally of the enemy, whether white, black, or red.

As soon as the war in Europe was likely to end, and Britain at liberty to direct her whole force against the United States, the understanding with the governor of Florida, became less

masked, and the British officers boldly dated their public acts from "*Head-Quarters, Pensacola.*"

It was, under these circumstances, determined to attack the British at their *head-quarters*, and to storm the town, although defended by strong batteries, and supported by seven armed British vessel in the bay. On the 7th November, 1814, the attack was made, under the command and direction of Gen. Jackson. The following animated report of the assault, was made by General Jackson, in a letter to Governor Early :

"I entered sword in hand, with about 3000 brave followers, in the face of Spanish batteries, and a British fleet of 7 sail, anchored abreast and opposite the town. The English, by intrigue and base falsehood, induced the Spaniards to abandon the works commanding the harbour, entered them and blew them up, otherwise they would have fallen a sacrifice to their own plans. When this took place, the fleet being at liberty to go out, did so; and I evacuated the town, leaving the Spaniards favourably impressed with our conduct, and disgusted with their British friends."

Fort Bowyer was closely besieged by land and water, on the 8th February, 1815, by a very large force of the enemy. The garrison consisted of 360 men, including officers, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. Lawrence. The enemy advanced by regular approaches, and was within certain musket shot of the parapets of the fort, on the land side, when the garrison was surrendered, on the 12th, by capitulation.—There were but few lives lost on either side.

On the 24th February, 6 barges of the enemy proceeded up the river St. Mary's, with a view

to burn the mills belonging to Mr. A. Clark.— They were opposed by a few patriots from the Florida shore, when the boats tacked about to retreat; at this moment, about 30 men attacked them from an ambush on the opposite shore.— The enemy was thus placed between two fires, which continued to gail him until he reached a part of the river, where, by keeping the centre, he was beyond the reach of the fire from both shores. The enemy lost upwards of 100 men. The Americans had only one man wounded.

The U. S. ship *President*, Com. Decatur, sailed on a cruise from New-York, the 14th January, 1815. The ship, in going over the bar, grounded, and suffered so much in consequence, as evidently to affect her sailing; and was the cause of her subsequent capture, by a superior force of the enemy. At 5, A. M. on the 15th, the *President* fell in with the enemy's squadron, consisting of the *Majestic*, *razee*; *Endymion*, *Pomone*, *Tenedos*, and *Despatch* brig. The injury done to the *President*, when she grounded off the Hook, prevented her outsailing the enemy's fleet. The *Endymion* (mounting fifty guns, 2½ pounders, on the main deck) having approached within gun-shot, commenced a firing at 5, P. M. more with a view to delay than to try strength with the *President*. The latter, however, was enabled to bring her guns so far to bear, as to silence the *Endymion*, and to put her, by 8 o'clock, fully out of combat, so much crippled, that she could, with great difficulty, be worked, or kept afloat. The near approach of the other ships, obliged the *President* to abandon a vessel, that must, if not supported by her consorts, have surrendered. The *Pomone* and *Tenedos*, came up and engaged the *President* at

the same time, the *Majestic* being also within gun-shot. It being useless and imprudent to engage so overpowering a force, Com. Decatur struck his flag, and went on board the *Majestic*, where he delivered his sword to Capt. Hays, the senior officer of the squadron, who politely returned it. The written parole granted to Com. Decatur, specified his having surrendered the *President* to a British *squadron*; thus silencing those who wished to have it understood, that the Commodore struck his flag to a *single* ship. The prize money, arising from the capture of the *President*, was divided among the crews of the *squadron*, by which she was captured.

The loss on board the enemy could not be ascertained; that of the *President* consisted of 24 killed, and 50 wounded. Among the killed, were Lieutenants Babbit, Hamilton, and Howell.

Commodore Decatur, in his official report, wrote that "a considerable number of his killed and wounded was from the fire of the *Pomone*; and that the *Endymion* had on board, in addition to her own crew, 1 lieutenant, 1 master's mate, and 50 seamen, belonging to the *Saturn*; and when the action ceased, was left motionless and unmanageable, until she bent new sails, rove new rigging, and fished her spars; nor did she join the squadron until six hours after the action, and three hours after the surrender of the *President*."

The U. S. frigate *Constitution*, Capt. Stewart, sailed from Boston, in December, 1814. When off Madeira, on the evening of the 20th February, 1815, she fell in with his Britannic majesty's ships *Cyane* and *Levant*, which she captured, after an action of 40 minutes.



The Cyane is a frigate built ship, mounting 34 carriage guns, viz. 22 32-pound carronades on the gun-deck, 8 18-pound carronades on the quarter-deck, 2 18-pound carronades, and 2 long 9's, on the forecastle, with a complement of 180 men. The Levant mounted 21 carriage-guns, viz. 18 32-pound carronades, 2 long 9's, and a shifting 12-pounder, on the top-gallant forecastle, with a complement of 156 men. The enemy's vessels suffered severely in spars, rigging, and sails. The Constitution received little injury, having but 4 men killed, and 10 wounded. The Cyane had 7 killed, and 17 wounded; the Levant, 9 killed, and 17 wounded. On the 12th March, the Constitution and her prizes, fell in with three British frigates. The frigates kept *together*, in chase of the Constitution, lest, by separating they might be *captured in succession*. The Constitution outsailed and escaped the enemy's squadron; the Cyane arrived at New-York; and the Levant was attacked and taken by the British squadron, in the harbour of Porto Praya, in the Island of St. Jago, in violation of the neutrality of the port, and contrary to the laws of nations. The Constitution arrived safely in the United States.

On the 19th July, 1813, the U. S. brig of war Syren, of 16 guns, was captured after a chase of 11 hours, by his Britannic majesty's frigate Medway. During the chase the Syren threw overboard all her guns, boats, anchors, cables, and spars.

On the 25th May, 1815, the President of the United States informed Congress, that his majesty the Emperor of Russia, had offered his mediation, in order to facilitate a peace between Great-Britain and the United States, that the

offer was accepted by the President, and that three citizens had been commissioned to treat accordingly.

On the meeting of Congress in December following, the President, in his message to both houses, informed them, that Great-Britain had declined negotiating under the mediation of Russia.

Notwithstanding this refusal of the British government, to accept the Russian mediation, the British ambassador, at the court of St. Petersburg, directed a letter, in September, to the Russian government, intimating a desire to treat immediately with the American plenipotentiaries.

Lord Castlereagh, secretary of state to his Britannic majesty, enclosed a copy of the above note in a letter of the 4th November, to the secretary of state of the United States, at the city of Washington, proposing that the two governments would enter into direct negotiation, for a termination of the war, on terms that would be mutually advantageous; and that the negotiations would be entered into at Gottenburg or London. The proposition was promptly acceded to by the American government, fixing on Gottenburg as the place of negotiation.

The senate confirmed, on the 19th January, 1814, the nomination, by the President, of John Quincy Adams, James A. Bayard, Henry Clay, and Jonathan Russell, as ministers to treat for peace with British commissioners at Gottenburg. It was afterward agreed, that the treaty should be held at Ghent.

So indecisive and equivocating was the conduct of British ministers, that many persons doubted whether any commissioners would be

appointed on the part of Britain; and, when appointed, it was pretty generally believed that the appointment was merely *pro forma*, without any intention to agree to reasonable terms of peace.

The British government appointed, as their commissioners, Lord Gambier, Henry Goulburn, Esq. and William Adams, Esq. These personages arrived at Ghent the 6th August.

At the first meeting with the American commissioners, terms were offered on the part of England, so degrading and offensive to the United States, that it was impossible to accept them; and, as some of them were offered in the form of a *sine qua non*, there remained not a hope of a speedy negotiation of hostilities.

The news, when arrived in the United States, roused at once the pride and the energy of the nation; and produced an union of sentiment, that presaged future glory and success.

It was now evident, that the negotiations at Ghent, hung on those then pending before a congress of the ministers of several potentates, assembled at Vienna, for settling a general peace in Europe.

It is easy to conceive, that the task to be performed by the congress at Vienna, was difficult. Wrapped up in state secrecy, and influenced by state intrigues, the course of negotiation at Vienna, was, in a great degree, withheld from the public eye. The continued armaments of European powers, and the military parade with which the Duke of Wellington appeared in Belgium, even before the Emperor of Elba ceased to be a pensioner of Louis XVIII, led to the suspicion, that the rights of European sovereigns must be settled by a new effusion of the blood of their subjects.

Whatever motive may have influenced the British government, it is certain, that a very sudden change of tone was produced on their part. The consequence was, that a treaty of peace, between Great Britain and the United States, was signed at Ghent, the 24th December, 1814, by Lord Gambier, Henry Goulburn, and William Adams, as commissioners on the part of England; and by John Quincy Adams, J. A. Bayard, Henry Clay, Jonathan Russell, and Albert Gallatin, as commissioners on the part of the United States; ratified at London the 28th of the same month, and ratified at the city of Washington, on the 17th February, 1815.

The terms of the treaty being considered honourable to the country, and satisfactory to the citizens, their ratification was followed by the most general and enthusiastic joy, accompanied by illuminations, &c. &c. in every part of the union.

Measures, early as possible, were taken to bring home, and restore to their country and friends, a great number of American prisoners, confined in the depots in England. Among these were many, who, having been impressed, and forced to serve the British government for many years before the war, had, on that occasion, refused to fight against their country and friends; and were, in consequence, treated as prisoners of war, although not taken in time of war, or in arms.

An unfortunate event prevented many of the unhappy prisoners from revisiting their country; or sent them to it, with marks of British barbarity, which will remain on them for life.

On the 6th April, 1815, Capt. T. G. Shortland, keeper of the prison of Dartmoor, having



discovered a small hole in one of the inner walls of the prison, made it a pretext for drawing out the army against the prisoners. The alarm bell, instead of causing the prisoners to retreat to their prisons, induced many of them to press forward to discover the cause: this was certainly more a proof of innocence, than of any premeditated attempt to escape from a place, whence they must have been soon released, without the risk of life. The measures taken, by order of Shortland, previous to the massacre, were calculated to prevent the return of the prisoners who were thus left the more exposed to the fire of the soldiery. While thus embarrassed, they were charged by the soldiery; and while running in great confusion to discover the few doors left open for their escape into the prison, they were fired on by the centinels on the walls. In this manner, 7 were killed, and 60 wounded. A committee of the prisoners investigated this transaction, and gave in their report, all the appearance of a foul and premeditated murder.

The British government in order to lessen this stigma on its officers, agreed to have an investigation made by two persons, one to be appointed by the British minister, the other by the American. F. S. Larpent was appointed by the former, and Charles King by the latter. The report of these commissioners certainly softened the apparent culpability of Shortland, but the correctness of the report has been denied by the prisoners, not by any wilful representation of the commissioners, but from a want of sufficient information or inquiry.

The subject of Dartmoor is referred to, for the purpose of directing the readers to the peri-

od of the massacre, but without the intention of entering into a detail, which the present limits will not allow.

Although a ratified treaty of peace had been exchanged, at Washington, on the 17th February, yet by its articles, captures made in distant seas were allowed, until certain periods after the date of ratification. The events produced during this time, proved both honourable and advantageous to the Americans.

At half past 10, A. M. the 23d March, 1815, Captain Biddle, commanding the United States' sloop Hornet, being off the north end of the island of Tristan d'Acunha, discovered a sail to the southward and eastward. He immediately made sail for her. At 1, 40, P. M. an action commenced. After a well fought engagement, of 22 minutes, the enemy cried for quarters, and was taken possession of by the victorious American. She proved to be his Britannic majesty's brig Penguin, mounting 16 32-pound carronades, 2 long twelves, a 12-pound carronade on the top-gallant forecastle, with swivels on the capstern in the tops: she had a spare port forward, so as to fight both her long guns of a side. The enemy had a complement of 132 men, 12 of whom were supernumerary marines, from the Medway, 74. After the prisoners were removed, and some provisions and stores taken from the Penguin, she was, by order of Captain Biddle, scuttled and sunk, her crippled and *riddled* state rendering it unadvisable to attempt sending her to the United States.

"This ship, (said Captain Biddle, in his official report,) did not receive a single shot in her hull, nor any material wound in her spars; the rigging and sails were very much cut; but having bent a new

set of sails, and knotted and secured our rigging, we are now completely ready, in all respects, for any service. We were eight men short of complement, and had nine upon the sick list, the morning of the action."

The enemy acknowledged a loss of fourteen killed, and twenty-eight wounded; but Mr. Mayo, who was in charge of the prize, said that the number was certainly greater. Capt. Dickenson, the commander of the *Penguin*, was killed, and the boatswain, second lieutenant, purser, and two midshipmen, wounded. Each of the midshipmen lost a leg.

The officers of the *Penguin* relate, that, during the action with the *Hornet*, a thirty-two pound shot came in at the after-port of the *Penguin*, on the larboard side—carried away *six legs*, killed the powder boy of the division, captured the opposite gun on the starboard side, passed through the port, and "sunk in sullen silence to the bottom."

The war between the United States and Great Britain, left a favourable opportunity for the pirates of Africa, to prey on the persons and property of the Americans. The Algerines declared war, and fitted out a fleet accordingly.

Having given in pages 21 and 22, the list of the American Navy, as it stood at the commencement of the war with Great-Britain, it may be considered interesting to know how the Lilliputian navy stood at the end of the war, which was to "blow it out of the water." The following is the naval list of shipping, in April, 1816. Those vessels, whose names are marked (\*) are such as remain of the naval force before the war. Those marked (§) are building. Those marked in *Italic* are such as were captured from

the British, during the war. The rest have been built or purchased during the war. Those that are blank have no armament at present.

<i>Rates.</i>	<i>Names of Vessels.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>	<i>Station, &amp;c.</i>
74	Ship Independence	Com. Wm. Bainbridge	Boston
74	Washington	Capt. I. Chauncey	do.
74	Franklin		Philadelphia
74	New-Orleans §		Sacket's Harbor
74	Chippewa §		do. do.
44	Guerriere, flag ship.	Com. S. Decatur	Boston
44	United States*	J. Shaw	Mediterranean
44	Java	O. H. Perry	do.
44	Constitution*	C. Stewart	Boston
44	Plattsburgh §		Sacket's Harbor
44	Superior		do. do.
36	Constellation*	C. Gordon	Mediterranean
36	Congress*	C. Morris	Mediterranean
36	Macedonian	L. Warrington	do.
32	Mohawk		Sacket's Harbor
32	Confiance		Lake Champlain
28	Cyane		New-York
24	Saratoga		Lake Champlain
24	John Adams	E. Trenchard	Mediterranean
24	General Pike	W. W. Cranc	Sacket's Harbor
20	Madison		do. do.
20	Alert	W. Stewart	Mediterranean
18	Hornet*	J. Biddle	New-York
18	Wasp	J. Blakely	At Sea
18	Peacock	L. Rodgers	New-York
18	Ontario	J. D. Elliot	Mediterranean
18	Erie	C. P. Ridgely	do.
18	Louisiana*	C. C. B. Thompson	New-Orleans
18	Brig Jefferson		Sacket's Harbor
18	Jones	M. T. Woolsey	do. do.
18	Epervier	J. Downs	At sea
18	Niagara		Lake Erie
18	Lawrence		Erie, Penn.
18	Detroit		do. do.
18	Eagle		Lake Champlain
16	Sylph		Sacket's Harbor
16	Chippewa	P. C. Read	New-York
16	Queen Charlotte		Erie, Penn.
16	Saranac		New-York
16	Linnet		Lake Champlain
16	Boxer	J. Porter	New-York
16	Troup		Savannah
14	Oneida	T. Brown	Sacket's Harbor
14	Enterprize*	L. Kearny	New-York
12	Flambeau	J. B. Nicholson	Do.
12	Firefly	G. W. Rodgers	Do.
12	Spark	T. Gamble	Do.
10	Hunter		Erie, Penn.
9	Prometheus	A. S. Wadsworth	Boston



<i>Rates.</i>	<i>Names of Vessels.</i>	<i>Commanders.</i>	<i>Station, &amp;c.</i>
5	Ghent		Erie, Penn.
3	<i>Caledonia</i>		Do. do.
	Etna, bomb	L. Alexis	New-Orleans
17	Schr. Ticonderoga		Lake Champlain
14	Nonsuch	Trant	West-Indies
11	Spitfire	A. J. Dallas	New-York
10	Torch	W. Chauncey	Do.
10	<i>Lady Prevost</i>		Erie, Penn.
9	Tom Bowline	Hoffman	New-York
8	Alligator		New-York
7	Roanoke	B. D. Conkley	Wilmington, N. C.
7	Firebrand		New-Orleans
7	Surprise		Do.
8	Conquest		Sacket's Harbour
5	Hornet	F. Forrest	Washington, D. C.
5	Lynx	T. Dukelhart	New-York
4	Fair American		Sacket's Harbour
4	Helen		Newcastle, Del.
3	Despatch		Norfolk
3	Asp	W. Atkinson	Baltimore
3	Porcupine		Erie, Penn.
3	Lady of the Lake		Sacket's Harbour
3	Pert		Do. do.
2	Governor Tompkins		Do. do.
1	Ranger		Baltimore
1	Ontario		Sacket's Harbour
1	Amelia		Erie, Penn.
2	Asp		Sacket's Harbour
1	Raven		Do. do.
12	Sloop President		Lake Champlain
11	<i>Finch</i>		Do. do.
11	<i>Chubb</i>		Do. do.
7	Preble		Do. do.
6	Montgomery-		Do. do.
5	Buffaloe		Philadelphia
5	Camel		Do.
2	Tickler		New-Orleans
2	Galley Allen		Lake Champlain
2	Burrows		Do. do.
2	Boxer		Do. do.
2	Nettle		Do. do.
2	Viper		Do. do.
2	Centipede		Do. do.
1	Ludlow		Do. do.
1	Wilmer		Do. do.
1	Alwyn		Do. do.
1	Ballard		Do. do.
	Ketch Spitfire		Norfolk
	Vesuvius		New-York
	Vengeance		Do.

Barges from No. 1 to 15, inclusive, on Lake Ontario, mounting each guns, and now at Sacket's Harbour.

The old gun-boats have been chiefly sold,

It would be a curious question in political arithmetic, to determine what number of American ships and their rates, would be sufficient to destroy the British navy, taking the naval events of the late war as a scale by which to calculate; and how long it would take to provide the necessary number of vessels, taking the increase of the navy, during the war, as a ratio.

### LIST OF AMERICAN PRIZES,

Which have arrived, or been "Satisfactorily accounted for," with the name of the Privateers, &c. and the number captured by each vessel, during the war.

(From Niles' Register.)

Abellino of Boston	10
U. S. ship Adams	10
Boat Alert, of Burlington, Lake Champlain	1
Alexander of Salem	3
Alfred of Salem	5
Amelia of Bath	1
Amelia of Baltimore	21
America of Salem	34
Anaconda of N. York	3
Argo of Baltimore	1
U. S. brig Argus	24
Argus of Boston	4
Atlass of Philadelphia	2
Avon of Boston	2
Baltimore of Baltimore	2
Bellona of Philadelphia	2
U. S. Barges	5
Black Joke of New-York	2
Blakely of Boston	3
Boats from Buffalo	3
Brutus of Boston	9
Buckskin of Salem	4
Bunkerhill of N. York	6
Cadet of Salem	2
Caroline of Baltimore	29
Catharine of Boston	1
Champlain Privateer	1
Charles Stewart of Boston	1
Chasseur of Baltimore	27
Chauncey's squadron on Lake Ontario	22
U. S. frigate Chesapeake	4
Comet of Baltimore	29
U. S. frigate Congress	4
U. S. frigate Constitution	12

Custom House Barge	1
Dart of Portland	6
Dash of Portland	9
David Porter of N. York	6
David Porter of Boston	8
Decatur of Newburyport	6
Decatur of Charleston	11
Delisle of Baltimore	3
Diamond of Baltimore	1
Diomedé of Salem	1
Divided we fall of New-York	16
Dolphin of Baltimore	7
Dolphin of Salem	17
Dromo of Boston	1
Eagle of Charleston	3
Eliza	1
U. S. brig Enterprize	5
U. S. frigate Essex	12
Essex Junior	3
Expedition of Baltimore	4
Fair Trader of Salem	7
Fairy of Baltimore	2
Fame of Salem	10
Fame of Thomastown	1
Flirt of N. York	1
Fly	2
Fox of Salem	4
Fox of Baltimore	2
Fox of Portsmouth	23
Franklin of N. York	9
U. S. sloop of war Frolic	1
Frolic of Salem	12
Full blooded Yankee	1
Galloway of N. York	1
General Armstrong of New-York	18
General Stark of Salem	4
General Putnam of Salem	1
Globe of Baltimore	7
Gossamer of Boston	1
Governor Tompkins of N. York	22
Governor M'Kean of Philadelphia	3
Governor Plumer of Portsmouth	3
Grampus of Baltimore	7
Grand Turk of Salem	21
Growler	4
U. S. Gun-boats	20
Harpy of Baltimore	13
Harrison of Baltimore	8
Hawk of Washington N. C.	1
Hazard	1
Henry Guilden of N. Y.	1
Herald of N. York	3
Hero of N. York	5
Hero of Newbern	2
Hero of Stonington	1
High Flyer of Baltimore	7

Holkar of N. York	5
Boat Holkar	1
Hope	1
U. S. sloop of war Hornet	4
Hunter	1
Ida of Baltimore	1
Ida of Boston	1
Industry of Lynn	3
Industry of Marblehead	1
Industry of Salem	3
Ino of Boston	2
Invincible of N. York	5
Invincible of Salem	4
Jack's Favourite of New-York	6
Jacob Jones of Boston	3
James Munroe	5
Jefferson of Salem	6
Joel Barlow	2
Jonquil of N. York	5
John of Salem	12
John and George	1
Kemp of Baltimore	16
Lady Madison of Wilmington N. C.	1
On Lake Superior	2
On Lake Huron	3
On Lake Champlain	8
Lark	1
Lawrence of Baltimore	14
Leach of Salem	2
Leader of Providence R. I.	1
Leander of Providence	1
Leo of Baltimore	14
Leo of Boston	8
Liberty of Baltimore	7
Little George of Boston	1
Letter of Marque, of Wilmington, N. C.	2
Lovely Cordelia of Charleston	20
Lovely Lass of Charleston	1
Lyon of Marblehead	4
Macedonian of Baltimore	1
Macedonian of Boston	6
Macedonian of Portsmouth	9
Madison of Salem	7
Marengo of N. York	8
Mammoth of Baltimore	28
M'Donough of Rhode-Island	2
M'Donough of Boston	7
Mars of Norfolk	3
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Mars of New London	2
Mary Ann of Charleston	5
Matilda of Philadelphia	1
Midas of Baltimore	10
On Mobile Bay	2
Morgiana of N. York	6
Montgomery of Salem	6



Nancy	1
Ned of Baltimore	1
Nonpareil of Charleston	1
Nonsuch of Baltimore	4
U. S. schooner Nonsuch	1
Orders in Council of New-York	5
Orlando of Gloucester	3
Patriot of New-York	9
Paul Jones of New-York	11
Perry of Baltimore	24
Com. Perry's squadron on Lake Erie	9
United States' sloop of war Peacock	15
Patapsco of Baltimore	3
Pike of Baltimore	13
Pilot of Baltimore	3
Polly of Salem	7
Portsmouth of Portsmouth N. H.	9
Poor Sailor of Charleston	1
Prince of Neufchatel	35
Rambler of Bristol	2
Rambler of Boston	5
Ranger of Boston	3
Rapid of Boston	4
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United States' brig Rattlesnake	4
Rattlesnake of Philadelphia	25
Regulator	1
Reindeer of Boston	6
Resolution of Boston	1
Retaliation of New-York	1
Revenge of Baltimore	9
Revenge of Norfolk	2
Revenge of Philadelphia	3
Revenge of Salem	5
Revenue Cutters	5
Roger of Norfolk	3
Roger of Baltimore	3
Rolla of Baltimore	11
Commodore Rodgers's squadron	19
Rosamond of New-York	3
Rossie of Baltimore	14
Rover of N. York	1
Row boat privateer	2
Sabine of Baltimore	5
At Sandy Creek by riflemen	5
Sarah Ann of Baltimore	1
Saranac of Baltimore	2
Saratoga of N. York	19
Scourge of N. York	29
Saucy Jack of Charleston	27
Shark of N. York	1
Sine-qua-non of Boston	1
Scorpion of Salem	2
Siro of Baltimore	1
Snap Dragon of Newbern N. C.	23

Snowbird of Salem	2
Sparrow of Baltimore	2
Spark of N. York	3
Spy of New-Orleans	1
Surprise of Baltimore	36
Boat Surprise and Boat Swiftsure	2
Spencer of Philadelphia	1
Squando of Portsmouth N. H.	1
United States' brig Syren	2
Syren of Baltimore	7
On the St. Lawrence	8
Teazer of N. York	13
Terrible (boat)	5
Thomas of Portsmouth	3
Thorn of Marblehead	1
Thrasher	1
Timothy Pickering	1
Tom of Baltimore	4
True-blooded Yankee	27
Two Brothers of New-Orleans	1
Two Friends of Massachusetts	1
Tuckahoe of Baltimore	2
U. S. frigate United States	1
Ultror of Baltimore	19
United We Stand of New-York	1
Upton (a prize ship)	1
Viper of N. York	3
Viper of Salem	1
Warrior of N. York	9
U. S. ship of war Wasp	16
Wasp of Baltimore	2
Wasp of Philadelphia	2
Wasp of Salem	1
Washington of Portland	1
Waterwich of Bristol	1
Whig of Baltimore	14
Wiley Reynard of Boston	4
Whale boat	1
Yankee of Bristol R. I	36
Yankee (smack)	2
Yorktown of N. York	5
York of Baltimore	10
Young Eagle of N. York	2
Young Teazer of N. York	6
Young Wasp of Philadelphia	11
Sundry vessels, names not ascertained	16
Total, 1834	

# APPENDIX.

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## HISTORY

OF THE

## ALGERINE WAR.

THE Dey of Algiers took advantage of the war between England and the United States, as a convenient opportunity to attack the trade, and to capture the citizens of the latter power. On the 23d February, 1815, the following confidential message from the President of the United States, was delivered to both houses of congress:

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.*

Congress will have seen, by the communication from the consul general of the United States at Algiers, laid before them on the 17th November, 1812, the hostile proceedings of the Dey against that functionary. These have been followed by acts of more overt and direct warfare against the citizens of the United States trading in the Mediterranean, some of whom are still detained in captivity, notwithstanding the attempts which have been made to ransom them, and are treated with the rigour usual on the coast of Barbary.

The considerations which rendered it unnecessary and unimportant to commence hostile operations on the part of the United States, being now terminated by the peace with Great-Britain, which opens the

prospect of an active and valuable trade of their citizens within the range of the Algerine cruisers, I recommend to congress the expediency of an act declaring the existence of a state of war between the United States and the Dey of Algiers ; and of such provisions as may be requisite for a vigorous prosecution of it to a successful issue..

JAMES MADISON.

*Washington, Feb. 23, 1815.*

A law of congress was, after the usual forms, passed, empowering the President to take measures for the protection of the commerce and seamen of the United States ; and also to employ the public armed vessels, and to commission private armed vessels, to act offensively against the vessels, goods, effects, and subjects of the Dey of Algiers.

This measure was not adopted until after the most satisfactory assurances of the hostility of the Dey, and that he had actually put an end, by his unprovoked aggressions, to the treaty subsisting between him and the United States. In July, 1812, the Dey extorted from the American consul general, a large sum of money, in lieu of a quantity of military stores, which he refused to accept, falsely alledging that they were not equal in quality or quantity to those stipulated by the existing treaty ; and then compelled the consul and citizens of the United States to quit his dominions. On the 25th August following, the American brig Edwin, of Salem, was taken by an Algerine corsair, and carried into Algiers, as a prize. Mr. Pollard, of Norfolk, being found on board a Spanish vessel, was also detained as a citizen of the United States. Captain Smith, the master of the Edwin, and Mr. Pollard, were not confined to hard labour ; but the rest of the



captains, with the exception of two of them, whose release has been effected, under circumstances not indicating any change of hostile temper on the part of the Dey, were subjected to the well known horrors of Algerine slavery. An effort of the United States' government, to effect the release of these citizens, by treaty, and the payment of a large sum of money, had failed.

There never was a war commenced with a greater share of general approbation; and it remained a wonder, that *one* public journal, (the Connecticut Mirror) should condemn a measure which had for its object the releasement from slavery of eleven American citizens, the punishment of barbarians, justly detested by the civilized world; and the putting into glorious practice, the popular sentiment, "*millions for defence, but not a cent for tribute.*"

A private letter from Lisbon, dated 2d May, 1815, stated, on the authority of advices from Cadiz, that the Algerine admiral had put to sea, with a fleet consisting of 4 frigates, 6 corvettes, 2 brigs, 1 zebec, 1 schooner, 1 galley, 40 gunboats, and 11 bombards, in all 66 vessels, mounting 463 guns, and having on board 4745 men; the supposed object was to cruise for American vessels.

The force destined by the United States, to punish the enemy, was to consist of the Independence, 74, Guerriere, 44, Macedonian, 38, Congress and Constellation, 36, Erie, Ontario, and Epervier, 18, Chippewa, 16, Flambeau and Spark, 12, Spitfire and Torch, 10, and Lynx, (tender) 1 long 24; in all 44 vessels, carrying 400 guns. Some immaterial alteration was afterward made in this arrangement.

On the 18th May, 1815, the United States' squadron, destined for the Mediterranean, sailed from New-York: It consisted of the frigates *Guerriere*, (com. Decatur's flag ship) captain Lewis; *Macedonian*, captain Jones; *Constellation*, captain Gordon; sloop of war *Ontario*, captain Elliot; brigs *Epervier*, captain Downs; *Fire Fly*, Rogers; *Flambeau*, Nicholson; *Spark*, Gamble; schooners *Spitfire*, *Dallas*, and *Torch*, *Chauncey*.

This squadron was followed by that under command of Com. Bainbridge, consisting of the *Independence*, 74, sloop of war *Eric*, 18, brig *Chippewa*, 16, and schooner *Lynx*.

The United States' brigs *Boxer*, *Saranac*, and *Enterprize* sailed, in August, for the Mediterranean. The brig *Fire-Fly* had sailed some time previous for the same destination, but was compelled to return to repair damages sustained in a gale. The *Ontario*, and some of the light vessels arrived at Gibraltar on the 13th June, and Commodore Decatur, with the rest of his squadron, on the 14th; and, on the evening of that day, all the vessels proceeded to their destination.

The following letters will explain some of the proceedings in the Mediterranean.

Copy of a letter from the American consul at Alicante, to the secretary of state, dated,

*Alicante, June 21st, 1815:*

SIR--I have the honour to inform you, that, by a letter this moment received from my vice-consul, Nicholas Briale, at Carthagena, I learn that the first division of our squadron, under commodore Decatur, had appeared off that port, and sent in an Algerine frigate of 44 guns and 500 men, captured off Cape de Gatt, after a sharp engagement, during which the

commander of the Algerine was killed. Our loss consisted of four men. The Commodore had sent in a schooner for refreshment, and other necessaries, with which she immediately sailed for the fleet.—The prize must perform ten days quarantine. I shall set off within two hours for that place in order to make further provision for the fleet, if necessary, and render every other service in my power—from thence I shall have the honour of addressing you, and advise what further may occur.

With sentiments of the highest respect, I am, sir,  
your most obedient servant,

ROBERT MONTGOMERY.

*To the honourable the secretary of state.*

Copy of a letter from the American consul at Cadiz  
to the secretary of state, dated

*Consulate of the United States,  
Cadiz, June 27, 1815.*

SIR—I have much pleasure in referring you to the subjoined statement, for the interesting and important information it contains, which I doubt not, in a great part may be relied on. The informant adds, that about 400 prisoners had been landed from the prize frigate, and that but few had been saved from the brig. The wind being now from the S. W. makes it probable that the particulars of this action from the commodore, will not come to hand for some days.

With much respect, I have the honour to be, &c.

RICH'D. S. HACKLEY.

*Hon. James Monroe, secretary of state.*

A letter, of which the following is a copy, announced the arrival of the American squadron at Gibraltar, after a passage of 25 days.

Copy of a letter from Commodore Decatur to the secretary of the navy, (received via Norfolk dated,

*United States' ship Guerriere,  
Off Gibraltar, June 15, 1815.*

SIR----I have the honour to inform you of our arrival off this place on the 15th, after a passage of 25 days, having previously communicated with Cadiz and Tangiers. The Spitfire, Torch, and Firefly, separated from the squadron during a gale of wind on the 26th ult. and the Ontario on the 31st.

I am happy to find they have, with the exception of the Firefly, all arrived; the latter vessel I fear may have lost her spars, and have returned to the United States. From all the information I can collect, I feel assured, that the Algerines have returned into the Mediterranean. The vessels that had separated from us, are now joining, and I shall proceed in search of the enemy forthwith.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully, &c.

STEPHEN DECATUR.

The commodore lost no time in the prosecution of his object; scarcely arrived in the Mediterranean, he commenced to pay tribute to the barbarians, as will be best explained by his letter to the secretary of war, of which the following is a copy:

*Extract of a letter from commodore Stephen Decatur, to the secretary of the navy, (received via Norfolk,) dated,*

*United States' ship Guerriere,  
Off Carthage, June 19, 1815.*

"I have the honour to inform you, that on the 17th inst. off Cape de Gatt, the squadron fell in with and captured an Algerine frigate of 46 gun, and between 4 and 500 men, commanded by Rais Hammida, who bore the title of admiral; she struck her flag after a running fight of 25 minutes.

"The admiral was killed at the commencement of the action. After the Guerriere (who from her favourable position was enabled to bring the enemy to close action) had fired two broadsides, the enemy, with



the exception of a few musketeers, ran below: The *Guerriere* had four men wounded by musket shot, which is the only injury done by the enemy in this affair.

"We have 406 prisoners including the wounded. The prisoners state that about thirty were killed and thrown overboard.

"Their squadron is said to be cruising in our vicinity; five days ago they were off this place, unless I obtain some further intelligence of them by tomorrow, I shall proceed to the port of Algiers, in the hopes to intercept their return. For the present, I have determined to send the prize into Carthagen."

On the 20th June, the commodore communicated a second victory, in a letter, in the following words:

Copy of a letter from Commodore Decatur to the secretary of the navy, dated

*United States' ship Guerriere, off*

*Cape Palos, June 20, 1815.*

SIR---I have the honour to inform you, that on the 19th inst. off cape Palos, the squadron under my command, captured an Algerine brig of twenty-two guns, and one hundred and eighty men. After a chase of three hours, she ran into shoal water, where I did not think it advisable to follow with our large ships, but despatched the *Epervier*, *Spark*, *Torch*, and *Spitfire*, to whom she surrendered after a short resistance. Twenty-three men were found dead on board. We received from her eighty prisoners, the residue of her crew having left her in boats. Many of them must have been killed by the fire of our vessels, and one of the boats was sunk. None of our vessels sustained any damage, nor was there a man killed or wounded. This brig is larger than the *Epervier*--- was built in Algiers, five years ago, by a Spanish constructor, the same who built the frigate captured on the 17th inst. and is perfectly sound.

I have the honour to be, very respectfully, &c.

STEPHEN DECATUR.

Commodore Bainbridge arrived at Carthage early in August, with the second American squadron, whence he proceeded to Algiers, Tripoli, and Tunis, in order to make a display of his force, the respectable appearance of which could not fail to make a deep, useful, and it may be hoped, a lasting impression. Having performed this service, the commodore sailed to Malaga, and thence to Gibraltar, where he stopped some time, and reciprocated compliments with the British Commander in Chief, thence the squadron sailed for the United States, and arrived at Newport the 15th November.

Commodore Bainbridge was joined while at Malaga by all Commodore Decatur's squadron except his own ship. It was as gratifying to the American as it was probably mortifying to the Englishman, to see such a fleet, in a British port, and that so soon after the termination of a war which was to have annihilated the "Lilliputian navy."

On the arrival of the fleet at Gibraltar, an understanding was had between Commodore Bainbridge and the British commander, that a salute of fifteen guns would be fired from the squadron, and a like number returned from the fort. By mistake seventeen guns, were fired from the *Independence*, the commodore immediately despatched an officer to acquaint the commander of the mistake; but before the officer reached the commander, orders were given to fire two more guns, in addition to the fifteen already fired. This circumstance is material only as far as it goes to prove the distinguished respect shown to the American flag; a respect for the proud fruit of determined valour and consummate prudence.

The situation in which the American character was about to be placed, was truly envious.— A few months after causing the greatest naval power in Europe to haul down its proud flag, the Americans were destined, by aid of the ships captured from England, to speak thunder to those piratical monarchs of Africa, to whom that very England was in the habit of paying tribute. It remained for America, infant America, the country of Washington and Franklin, to break up a system which was, if possible, more disgraceful to the civilized nations who submitted to it, than to the barbarous states who imposed it. But America, by the use she made of victory, has gained for herself an honour, and been raised to a pinnacle of glory, to which no victory, however splendid, could have raised her. The favourite maxim of the nation was and is “*millions for defence, but not a cent for tribute.*”— True to this policy, she made it a *sine qua non* of peace, and this being concluded, the humbled enemy was permitted to take back those ships, which were to remain for ever innocent, as respected the great western nation. Which of the haughty masters of enslaved Europe has ever given such proof of magnanimity or of moderation in the midst of victory so complete?

Commodore Decatur arrived before Algiers, on the 29th June, and hoisted a flag of truce on board the *Guerriere*, with the Swedish flag at the main. A boat came off with Mr. Norderling, consul of Sweden, and the captain of the port, to whom the capture of the frigate and brig was communicated, and to whom Commodore Decatur and William Thaler, Esq. acting as commissioners to negotiate a peace, delivered a letter for the Dey, from the President of the United

States; and also a note from themselves, of which the following is a copy:

*The American Commissioners to the Dey of Algiers.*

The undersigned have the honour to inform his highness the dey of Algiers, that they have been appointed by the President of the United States of America: commissioners plenipotentiary to treat of peace with his highness, and that pursuant to their instructions, they are ready to open a negociation for the restoration of peace and harmony between the two countries, on terms just and honourable to both parties; and they feel it incumbent on them to state explicitly to his highness, that they are instructed to treat upon no other principle, than that of perfect equality, and on the terms of the most favoured nations: no stipulation for paying any tribute to Algiers, under any form whatever, will be agreed to.

The undersigned have the honour to transmit herewith, a letter from the President of the U. States, and they avail themselves of this occasion to assure his highness of their high consideration and profound respect.

The captain of the port then requested that hostilities should cease preceding the negotiation, and that persons might be sent ashore to treat. Both propositions were rejected, the American commissioners declaring that the negotiations must be carried on, on board the fleet, and that hostilities as respected vessels, should not cease. On the following day, the Swedish consul and the captain of the port came on board with full powers to negotiate. The American commissioners produced the model of a treaty which they declared would not be departed from in substance. Every attempt on the part of Algiers, to obtain a modification of it proved fruitless, even the restoration of the captured vessels was positively refused. Upon consideration, how-



ever, the American commissioners resolved to restore the captured vessels as a *favor*, and not as matter of treaty, giving the Algerine to understand, that even this would depend on the signing of the treaty as presented. The Algerine captain then proposed a truce, to deliberate on the proposed terms, the reply was "not a minute ; if your squadron appears in sight before the treaty is actually signed by the dey, and the prisoners sent off, ours would capture them !" It was finally agreed that hostilities should cease when the Algerine boat should be perceived coming off with a white flag hoisted, the Swedish consul pledging his word of honor not to hoist it unless the treaty was signed, and the prisoners in the boat. The Swedish consul and Algerine captain returned on shore, and although the distance was full five miles, they came back within three hours with the treaty signed, and having with them the prisoners who were to be released from captivity by the terms of the treaty.

By the terms of this treaty, the dey has agreed : That "no tribute, either as biennial presents, or under any form or name whatever, shall ever be required by the dey and regency of Algiers, from the United States of America."

That the dey shall deliver up to the American squadron "all the American citizens now in their possession, amounting to ten, more or less."

"A just and full compensation shall be made by the dey of Algiers, to such citizens of the United States as have been captured and detained by Algerine cruizers, or who have been forced to abandon their property in Algiers, in violation of the twenty-second article of the

treaty of peace and amity, concluded between the United States and the dey of Algiers, on the 5th of September, 1795."

"And it is agreed between the contracting parties, that in lieu of the above, the dey of Algiers shall cause to be delivered forthwith into the hands of the American consul, residing at Algiers, the whole of a quantity of bales of cotton, left by the late consul general of the United States, in the public magazines in Algiers, and that he shall pay into the hands of the said consul the sum of ten thousand Spanish dollars."

"That no citizen or subject of either party, or their property if found on board the vessel of any power with which either may be hereafter at war, shall be detained or confiscated; and, on no pretence, shall any citizen of the United States, be hereafter kept in a state of slavery by the dey."

"Vessels of either of the contracting parties, putting into the ports of the other, and having need of provisions or other supplies, shall be furnished at the market price—and if any such vessel should so put in from a distance at sea, and have occasion to repair, she shall be at liberty to land, and re-embark her cargo, without paying any customs or duties whatever, but in no case shall she be compelled to land her cargo."

"That should a vessel of either of the contracting parties be cast on shore within the territories of the other, all proper assistance should be given to the crew—*no pillage shall be allowed.*"

"The consul of the United States of America shall not be responsible for the debts contracted by citizens of his own nation, unless

he previously gives written obligations so to do."

"That if any christian slaves should make their escape, and go on board any ship of war of the United States that may be before the city of Algiers, *they shall not be required back again*, nor shall any payment be required for the said christians."

"That as the government of the United States of America has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquillity of any nation, and as the said states have never entered into any voluntary war or act of hostility, except in defence of their just rights on the high seas, it is declared by the contracting parties, that no pretext arising from religious opinions shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two nations; and the consuls and agents of both nations shall have liberty to celebrate the rites of their respective religions in their own houses."

"The consuls respectively shall have liberty and personal security given them to travel within the territories of each other, both by land and sea, and shall not be prevented from going on board any vessels they may think proper to visit: they shall likewise have the liberty to appoint their own drogoman and broker."

"In case of any dispute arising from the violation of any of the articles of this treaty, no appeal shall be made to arms, nor shall war be declared on any pretext whatever; but if the consul residing at the place where the dispute shall happen, shall not be able to settle the same, the government of that country shall state their grievance in writing, and transmit the same to the government of the other, and the period of

three months shall be allowed for answers to be returned, during which time no hostility shall be permitted by either party ; and in case the grievances are not redressed, and a war should be the event, the consuls and citizens and subjects of both parties respectively, shall be permitted to embark with their effects unmolested, on board of what vessel or vessels they shall think proper, reasonable time being allowed for that purpose."

"If in the course of events, a war should break out between the two nations, the prisoners captured by either party shall not be made slaves, they shall not be forced to hard labour, or other confinement than such as may be necessary to secure their safe keeping, and shall be exchanged rank for rank ; and it is agreed that prisoners shall be exchanged in twelve months after their capture, and the exchange may be effected by any private individual, legally authorised by either of the parties."

"If any of the Barbary states or other powers at war with the United States, shall capture any American vessel, and send her into any port of the regency of Algiers, they shall not be permitted to sell her, but shall be forced to depart the port, on procuring the requisite supplies of provisions ; but the vessels of war of the United States, with any prizes they may capture from their enemies shall have liberty to frequent the ports of Algiers, for refreshments of any kind, and to sell such prizes, in the said ports, without any other customs or duties, than such as are customary on ordinary commercial importations."

"If any of the citizens of the United States, or any persons under their protection, shall have



any disputes, with each other, the consul shall decide between the parties; and whenever the consul shall require any aid or assistance from the government of Algiers, to enforce his decisions, it shall be immediately granted to him; and if any disputes shall arise between any citizens of the United States and the citizens or subjects of any other nation having a consul or agent in Algiers, such disputes shall be settled by the consuls or agents of the respective nation; and any disputes or suits at law, that may take place between any citizens of the United States and the subjects of the regency of Algiers, shall be decided by the dey in person, and no other."

"If a citizen of the United States should kill, wound, or strike a subject of Algiers, or, on the contrary, a subject of Algiers should kill, wound, or strike a citizen of the United States, the law of the country shall take place, and equal justice shall be rendered, the consul assisting at the trial; but the sentence of punishment against an American citizen shall not be greater or more severe, than it would be against a Turk in the same predicament; and if any delinquent should make his escape, the consul shall not be responsible for him in any manner whatever."

"The consul of the United States of America shall not be required to pay any customs or duties whatever on any thing he imports from a foreign country for the use of his house and family."

"Should any of the citizens of the United States of America die within the limits of the regency of Algiers, the dey and his subjects shall not interfere with the property of the deceased, but it shall be under the immediate direction of the consul, unless otherwise disposed of by will."

The historian has an unpleasant task, in being compelled to close the detail of such glorious exploits, by recounting a misfortune which, while it takes nothing from the lustre of our arms, sinks grief deep into the heart of the citizen.

The United States armed in defence of their national rights, and the liberty of the citizen. From the deck of his floating battery, Decatur demanded the release of his fellow citizens held in bondage: the African tyrant trembled, the citizen's chains fell from his limbs, and he was freed—but, alas! the exultation was momentary.

The United States' brig of war *Epervier* was despatched to the United States to announce the glad tidings, but she did not reach her destination. She sailed on the 10th July, was seen on the 8th August in lat. 39, 4, N. long. 61, 18, W. under double reefed topsails; the next day there was a very heavy blow, and she probably foundered during the gale; if not then, she must have been lost by some subsequent mishap, as from the length of time since she was seen, no hope remains of her safety; and not one survived to tell the mournful event. On board her were Lt. com. Shubrick; lieut. Barnwell; lieut. Drury; sailing master Wright; midshipmen Coulter, and Hunter, and several others. Passengers, capt. Lewis; lieuts. Neal and Yarnell. The Americans released at Algiers were also on board.

THE END.

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